NATION

Women 'largest minority' in India: SC

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BUSINESS

Lenskart makes weak market debut

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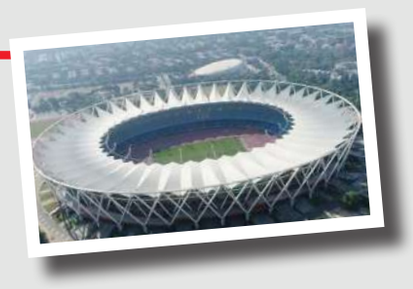
SPORTS

Delhi's iconic JNL Stadium may be turned into Sports City



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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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2 jail officials fired over 'VIP treatment' to B'luru inmates

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

Two officials from the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison were suspended and the Chief Superintendent of Bengaluru Prison K Suresh were transferred after videos emerged showing inmates enjoying special privileges. The videos purportedly showed the inmates using telephones and watching a private television. Home Minister G Parameshwara also announced the formation of a committee led by Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) R Hitendra to probe the lapses in Bengaluru central jail here. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 2

Trump threatens to sue BBC over 6 Jan speech edit

LONDON, 10 NOV

The BBC reported Monday that US President Donald Trump has sent a letter threatening legal action over the way a speech he made was edited in a documentary aired by the British broadcaster. Two of the BBC's most senior executives resigned Sunday over accusations of bias in the "Panorama" documentary's editing of a speech Trump made on 6 January, 2021, before a crowd of his supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington. The programme spliced together three quotes from two sections of the speech, delivered almost an hour apart, into what appeared to be one quote in which Trump urged supporters to march with him and "fight like hell." Among the parts cut out was a section where Trump said he wanted people to demonstrate peacefully.*—PTI*

Youth hacked to death in TN police quarters

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, 10 NOV

A youth was chased and brutally hacked to death inside police quarters here on Monday by a five-member gang, allegedly due to professional rivalry. Five people were arrested, while a hunt is on to nab four others. The five assailants, who came on two two-wheelers, rammed into the motorcycle on which the victim, Thamarai Selvan, was riding near Marsingpet. Selvan, hailing from Bheema Nagar, worked in a real estate firm.

When the gang attacked him, Selvan ran towards the police quarters and entered a house. But the men barged into the house and hacked him to death. The police have registered a case in the matter. *—PTI*

Russia, India to sign labour mobility agreement

MOSCOW, 9 NOV

India and Russia are expected to sign a bilateral mobility agreement during President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi in the first week of December. This accord will establish a framework for legal migration, protection of workers' rights and expansion of skilled Indian manpower in construction, textiles, engineering and electronics industries in Russia. Over 70,000 Indian nationals are expected to be officially employed across Russia under the quotas managed by the Russian Ministry of Labour. The Moscow-based Indian Business Alliance (IBA) has welcomed the India-Russia Mobility Agreement and considers it a strategic milestone in expanding India-Russia relations. *—PTI*

3.7 cr voters to test 1,302 candidates in Bihar's Phase 2 polls

PATNA, 10 NOV

Around 3.70 crore voters will decide the fate of 1,302 candidates across 122 Assembly constituencies on Tuesday as Bihar goes to the second and final phase of polling. The constituencies span West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul, Araria and Kishanganj, all of which border Nepal.

Security has been significantly strengthened, with over four lakh personnel deployed statewide. Police officials said 8,491 polling station locations have been categorised as critical, where forces will maintain heightened vigilance. Bihar has received 1,000 CAPF companies (about 1 lakh personnel) for both phases, alongside 60,000 Bihar Police personnel, 30,000 Bihar Special Armed Police, 20,000 home guards, 19,000 trainee constables, and nearly 1.5 lakh chowkidars.

Nepal, meanwhile, has sealed its border with India for 72 hours, halting vehicular movement through points such as Birgunj–Raxaul, citing security reasons ahead of the Bihar polls. Authorities in Nepal's Mahottari district said border points will reopen once voting concludes.

In Bihar, 45,399 polling stations have been set up, including 40,073 in rural areas.

In Bihar, 45,399 polling stations have been set up, including 40,073 in rural areas *PHOTO: PTI*

Several high-profile turncoats are in the fray: Mohania MLA Sangita Kumari (now BJP), Nawada's Vibha Devi (now JD(U)), and former minister Murari Gautam, contesting Chenari on an LJP (Ram Vilas) ticket.

Women voters number 1.75 crore, while Hisua in Nawada is the largest constituency with 3.67 lakh electors. Lauria, Chanpatia, Raxaul, Triveniganj, Sugauli and Banmakhi have the highest number of candidates at 22 each. More than half the electorate, 2.28 crore, is aged between 30 and 60, and 7.69 lakh voters are in the 18–19 bracket. The first phase saw a record turnout of over 65 per cent. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pgs 3, 4 & 5

EIGHT SEATS HEAD TO BYPOLLS

Eight seats across seven states and UTs will go to bypolls on 11 November, coinciding with Bihar's second phase of voting. Elections will be held in Budgam and Nagrota (J&K), Anta (Rajasthan), Ghatshila (Jharkhand), Jubilee Hills (Telangana), Tarn Taran (Punjab), Dampa (Mizoram) and Nuapada (Odisha). Key contests include NC vs PDP in Budgam, a 13-candidate race in Nagrota, and a tight fight in Ghatshila. Multi-cornered contests are expected in Nuapada, Jubilee Hills, Tarn Taran and Dampa. The bypolls were triggered by resignations, convictions or deaths of sitting MLAs. Results will be declared on 14 November.

8 killed in blast near Red Fort, terror angle suspected

On Bihar poll eve, a car with occupants blows up at traffic signal

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

A high-intensity explosion ripped through a slow-moving Hyundai i20 car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killing at least eight people and gutting several vehicles, officials said. The blast, which occurred around 6.52 pm, came on the eve of the second and final phase of the Bihar assembly polls.

The blast comes months after the 22 April Pahalgam attack in which 26 tourist were killed.

Twenty-four people were injured and rushed to the LNJP Hospital, a few kilometres away. Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha said the vehicle in which the explosion occurred had occupants. A senior police officer said three people were inside the car but noted that "no pellet or puncture wounds were found on the injured", an unusual feature for a bomb blast. Police said the car was registered to one Nadeem Khan and bore a Haryana number plate.

A high alert has been sounded in Delhi, with security tightened at border points and vehicle checking intensified. States including Bihar, Karnataka Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra (Mumbai) have also stepped up security. Bihar DGP Vinay Kumar said the alert followed the Delhi explosion, even as security was already heightened for the 11 November polling.

Images show mangled remains of cars as people rush to rescue the injured in New Delhi on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

Panic gripped the busy area as fire billowed from burning vehicles. Videos shared by the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association showed the magnitude of the blast, including mangled bodies lying on vehicles and body parts scattered near the site. Ten fire tenders were deployed, and the blaze was brought under control by 7.29 pm, according to the Delhi Fire Services.

Golcha said all agencies — the Delhi Police, Forensic Science Laboratory, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and National Security Guard (NSG) — were at the spot assessing the situation. Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to the Delhi police chief and the Intelligence Bureau director, directing the NSG, NIA and forensic experts to send specialised teams for evidence collection. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also reviewed the situation and expressed condolences.

No group has claimed responsibility so far. Police are scanning CCTV footage to track the vehicle's route and gathering mobile dump data. Dossiers of suspected terrorists are being examined, and locals and eyewitnesses are being questioned about suspicious activity.

According to fire officials, six cars, two e-rickshaws and an autorickshaw were destroyed. The blast shattered window panes of vehicles parked several metres away, and the sound was heard as far as ITO. Chandni Chowk market will remain closed on Tuesday, its president Sanjay Bhargaw said. *—PTI*

3 OF 8 HELD ARE DOCS

Terror plot foiled as 2,900kg explosives seized near Delhi

SRINAGAR/FARIDABAD, 10 NOV

Muzammil Shakeel and Adeel Ahmad Rather have been arrested

In one of the largest counter-terror operations in recent years, police across Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have arrested eight people, including three doctors, and seized nearly 2,900 kg of explosive material allegedly linked to Pakistan-based terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH).

Officials said the operation followed a 15-day coordinated surveillance drive that exposed a "white-collar terror module" involving professionals, students and handlers operating through encrypted communication platforms.

A key breakthrough came in Faridabad, where investigators recovered 360 kg of suspected ammonium nitrate and multiple weapons — including an AK-56, AK Krinkov, two pistols and over 100 live rounds — from the rented accommodation of Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie. Another accused, Dr Shaheen, was arrested in Lucknow and flown to Srinagar, where an AK-47 was allegedly found in his car.

Additional seizures included sulphur, potassium nitrate, detonators, electronic timers, wires, and batteries — all components used in improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Police said these materials were stored in separate states to avoid detection. Investigators suspect the network had been raising funds through professional and educational circles under the guise of charity. Forensic experts are examining digital devices and encrypted chats linked to suspected handlers in Pakistan. Police said the multi-agency probe is continuing, with more arrests likely. Officials have withheld certain operational details citing national security. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

SC to hear on pan-India SIR today

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The Supreme Court will begin hearing on Tuesday multiple petitions challenging the Election Commission's decision to conduct a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi clarified it was currently hearing petitions related only to Bihar and that fresh matters from other states must be listed before Chief Justice BR Gavai. "We are seized of Bihar SIR matters. Whether others come to us depends on the CJI," the Bench told counsel for the West Bengal Congress, which sought urgent listing of its plea.

Petitions have been filed by the West Bengal Congress, TMC MP Dola Sen, the DMK, and the CPI(M), opposing the EC's decision and terming the SIR "unconstitutional." *—PTI*

SC bins Pavithra's plea for bail

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The Supreme Court has dismissed a review plea filed by actor Pavithra Gowda against its 14 August verdict that cancelled the bail granted to her, co-accused actor Darshan, and others in the Renukaswamy murder case. Gowda and Darshan are accused of abducting and torturing 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a fan who allegedly sent obscene messages to Gowda.

According to police, the victim was confined in a Bengaluru shed for three days in June 2024 before being tortured to death. His body was later recovered from a drain.

A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, which considered the review plea in-chamber, said it found "no case for review." "We have carefully gone through the order and the record. No case for review is made out. Consequently, the review petitions are dismissed," the Bench stated in its 6 November order.

The court also rejected an application seeking to list the matter for an open-court hearing. In its August ruling, the apex court had set aside the Karnataka High Court's decision to grant bail, emphasising that "no individual, however wealthy or influential, is exempt from the rigours of law." *—PTI*

Myanmar scam: India repatriates 197 nationals from Thailand

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

India on Monday repatriated a second batch of 197 of its nationals from Mae Scot in Thailand in two military aircraft, days after they fled to Thai border town of Mae Sot from a notorious scam centre in Myanmar.

India brought back the first batch of 270 Indians from Thailand on 6 November.

The Indians were among 1,500 people from 28 countries who crossed over to Thailand in october following the raid on the cybercrime hub of KK Park in Myanmar's Myawaddy.

The Indians were detained by Thai authorities for violation of Thai immigration laws when they had entered the country illegally. According to a UN report, hundreds of trafficked individuals of various nationalities were forced to carry out fraud in the centres. Similar centres are reportedly located in Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines and Malaysia as well. *—PTI*

5 Indian nationals abducted in Mali

BAMAKO, 10 NOV

Five Indian nationals were abducted in Mali last week in an "unfortunate incident", the Indian mission here has said.

The kidnapping took place on November 6 in the West African nation, the Indian embassy said in an X post on Sunday.

"The Embassy is aware of the unfortunate incident of kidnapping of five of our nationals in Mali on 6 Nov 2025," it said.

The embassy has been "working closely with the authorities and the company concerned to secure their safe release as quickly as possible," it added. *—PTI*

A FAVOURITE FOR THE WIN

Kiran Desai eyes rare second Booker win

LONDON, 10 NOV

Indian author Kiran Desai, who could become one of only five writers to win the Booker Prize twice, is in contention for the 2025 award for her latest novel 'The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny.' The London-based ceremony, scheduled for Monday night, will name the winner from six shortlisted authors.

At a pre-award event at London's Southbank Centre, the 54-year-old author reflected on her book's 19-year journey, describing it as an exploration of "global loneliness" through a "long, unresolved love story." Desai said her inspiration came from her "artistic loneliness" while studying in the US. "Perhaps this was the beginning of the book," she said. "I was lonely writing it, but I was also very happy; it felt like a companion."

- Judges praised the 667-page novel as a "vast and immersive" story of two young Indians in America, rich in reflections on class, race, and belonging.

Judges praised the 667-page novel as a "vast and immersive" story of two young Indians in America, rich in reflections on class, race, and belonging.

Desai previously won the Booker in 2006 for The Inheritance of Loss.

Born in New Delhi, she moved to England at 15 and later settled in the US. Her mother, Anita Desai, was a three-time Booker finalist.

Other shortlisted works include 'Flashlight' by Susan Choi, 'Audition' by Katie Kitamura, 'The Rest of Our Lives' by Ben Markovits, 'Flesh' by David Szalay, and The Land in Winter by Andrew Miller.

Chair of judges Roddy Doyle said the six novels share "brilliantly human" themes of connection, loneliness, and love. *—PTI*

Tigress and three cubs rescued in Bandipur

MYSURU, 10 NOV

A tigress and her three cubs have been rescued near Padaguru-Kalahalli village in the Gundlupet buffer zone of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Chamarajanagar district. This follows the rescue of a tiger the previous day. PCCF PC Ray confirmed that the family is currently under observation. A team of forest personnel, assisted by tamed elephants Parthasarathy and Abhimanyu, undertook a five-hour operation using drone surveillance to locate the animals. Drone cameras initially spotted the cubs hiding in a bush. When the mother arrived, forest officials tranquillised her. The tigress and her cubs were then relocated to the Koorgally Rehabilitation Centre. The wild cat was reportedly causing disturbances for local residents. *—Salar News*

India-Sri Lanka military exercise starts in Belagavi

BELAGAVI, 10 NOV

India and Sri Lanka have launched the 11th edition of the 'Mitra Shakti' military exercise in Belagavi of the State, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance interoperability between the two nations. This two-week exercise focuses on joint counter-terrorism operations, with the Indian contingent comprising 170 personnel primarily from the Rajput Regiment. The Sri Lankan side is represented by 135 personnel from the Gajaba Regiment, alongside 20 members from the Indian Air Force and 10 from the Sri Lankan Air Force. The military cooperation will include tactical actions such as raids, search and destroy missions, and heliborne operations. Both sides will utilise drones, counter-unmanned aerial systems and helicopters, during the exercise. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

RSS disrespected national flag for 100 years: Priyank

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday questioned the manner in which the RSS receives donations as he accused them of disrespecting the national flag for 100 years. On X, Kharge responded to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's claim that the outfit runs entirely on contributions from its volunteers. "Why are donations not made directly to the organisation under its own registered identity?" Priyank asked. "100 years of disrespecting our National Flag," he added in another X post. "100 years of betraying the Independence movement. 100 years of opposing the Constitution of India. 100 years of anti-nationalism." *—Salar News with Agencies*

KIA Customs seize exotic wildlife from smuggler

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

Customs officials at City's Kempegowda International Airport arrested two Bangkok returnees for smuggling exotic wildlife species and another for carrying ganja worth Rs 1 crore, officials said on Monday. Bengaluru Customs posted on X that on 9 November, officers intercepted two passengers from Bangkok and confiscated exotic species, including a white-cheeked gibbon, monkey and hornbill. The duo was arrested under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In a separate operation the same day, officials caught another Bangkok returnee with 2.99 kg of hydroponic ganja, valued at Rs 1.04 crore. The traveller was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Authorities said further investigation is underway into the smuggling networks behind both cases. *—PTI*

DG/IP MA Saleem and Home Minister Parameshwara at a high level meeting; BJP State President BY Vijayendra, Opposition Leader R Ashoka and others were detained as they protested the 'VVIP treatment' to inmates on Monday

PHOTO: X@DRPARAMESHWARA /MOHAMMAD ASAD

2 officials suspended over 'prison VVIP treatment'

HM says videos were old; BJP demands CM's resignation

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

- Parameshwara said that an IPS officer will be in charge of Parappana Agrahara Jail (Bengaluru). He said that a committee would investigate the lapses where inmates are seen with smartphones and TV

Two officials from the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison were suspended and the Chief Superintendent of Bengaluru Prison K Suresh were transferred after videos emerged showing inmates enjoying special privileges.

The videos purportedly showed the inmates using telephones and watching a private television.

Home Minister G Parameshwara also announced the formation of a committee led by Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) R Hitendra to probe the lapses in Bengaluru central jail here. The committee includes Inspector General of Police Sandeep Patil and Superintendents of Police Amaranath Reddy and CB Rishyanth as members.

The Deputy Commissioners and the Superintendents of Police of respective districts where major prisons are located in the State, will serve as co-members of the panel, he said.

Parameshwara said that suspended officers were Superintendent Imamsab Myageri and Assistant Superintendent Ashok Bhajantri.

"It has been decided that from now on an IPS officer will be in charge of Parappana Agrahara Jail (Bengaluru)," Parameshwara added.

He said that many of the videos were old.

"Some videos have been circulating; however, they are from 2023, not from yesterday or the day before," he said. "Some photos, only one or two, are from three to four months ago."

Parameshwara said that a command centre will be set up in Bengaluru, connecting all the CCTV cameras in the jail.

However, the BJP staged a demonstration. Its leaders were taken into preventive custody when they were marching to lay siege to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office residence.

The party has also sought a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the incident, calling it a "serious security lapse".

They also demanded Parameshwara and Siddaramaiah's resignations. *—Salar News with Agencies*

AFTER 4 DEATHS

CM: Find solution for human-animal conflict

MYSURU, 10 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday directed officials to take scientific and immediate measures to prevent of wild animals straying into human habitats. The directive came after a tiger killed four people in Mysuru district over the past month.

At a meeting with senior forest department officials, Siddaramaiah asked, "Why are tigers and elephants coming out of the forest? Give a scientific reason."

Siddaramaiah instructed the department to fill water pits inside forests, remove lantana, and grow grass to ensure adequate food and water sources within forest areas. He also directed continuous monitoring of elephant and tiger movements and said a separate meeting would be convened over human-animal conflicts soon.

"There are complaints that forest department officers are being exploitative in matters of collection and sale of minor forest produce by hamlet residents," his statement said.

FLAYS OFFICIALS

Siddaramaiah expressed strong displeasure with Mysuru officials.

"The people of Mysuru come to Bengaluru in search of me. If the officials had sat in their offices... there would have been no need for people to come to Bengaluru," he said.

Siddaramaiah also expressed displeasure over the poor performance of education in his home district. Mysuru slipped to from seventh place to 14th position in SSLC results, he noted.

CROPS

CM said that farmers should learn from Maharashtra. "Farmers in Maharashtra grow three crops a year. In our district, only two are grown. We should visit Maharashtra and study on how to adapt it to our conditions." *—Salar News*

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the Karnataka Development programmes progress review meet in Mysuru

PHOTO: X/SIDDARAMAIAH

A viral video purports to show Muslims performing namaz at Terminal-2 of the Kempegowda International Airport

PHOTO: ANI

Muslims 'perform' namaz at KIA; BJP slams Cong

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

A viral video purportedly showing a group of people offering namaz (Islamic prayer) at Terminal-2 of the Kempegowda International Airport in the City has ignited a political controversy. The video shows security personnel nearby observing the prayers.

BJP unit spokesperson Vijay Prasad asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister Priyank Kharge whether the people praying obtained any prior permission - as mandated in the recent rule framed by the State government.

"How is this even allowed inside the T2 Terminal of Bengaluru International Airport? Siddaramaiah and Priyank, do you approve of this?" Prasad wrote on X. "Did these individuals obtain prior permission to offer Namaz in a high-security airport zone?"

Referring to the rules, which the BJP alleged were framed to restrict RSS activities, Prasad said, "Why is it that the government objects when the RSS conducts Patha Sanchalana (route march) after obtaining due permission from the concerned authorities, but turns a blind eye to such activities in a restricted public area?"

Senior Congress leader and a former minister H Anjaneya said in Haveri doing prayer is not like walking with sticks. "They were just doing prayers. One must learn devotion from them (Muslims). A Muslim performs prayers wherever he is... be it a bus stand or an agriculture field." *—PTI*

'Vote chori' was first exposed in K'taka: DKS

NEW DELHI/ BENGALURU, 10 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Monday that exposing 'vote chori' in the State led to exposing similar election fraud in Maharashtra, Haryana and Bihar.

He was speaking to reporters in Delhi after presenting the 1.12 crore signatures collected from across Karnataka as part of the Congress campaign against the alleged vote theft.

"It was the AICC Research wing of Karnataka that first exposed the vote theft," he said. He added that the fight against vote theft was started by Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge from Freedom Park.

"I am happy that after Karnataka, this has reached Maharashtra, Bihar and Haryana," he noted while

- Shivakimar said the AICC Research wing of Karnataka first exposed the vote theft, thereby spreading the movement to Maharashtra, Haryana and Bihar

thanking party workers at all levels for working hard to get the signatures. "The AICC... will hold a massive gathering in Delhi in the coming days."

He added that the EC has not done justice to Bihar with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, alleging it deleted a large number of poor and migrants voters from the rolls.

IS HDK PART OF A TERROR OUTFIT?

Asked about JD(S) leader and Union Minister Kumaraswamy's statement that there are terrorists in Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar retorted, "Is Kumaraswamy part of the terror outfit? Was he also not in Vidhana Soudha?" *—Salar News*

Jarkiholi panel wins Belagavi DCC bank poll

BELAGAVI, 10 NOV

The Jarkiholi panel has taken control of the Belagavi District Central Co-operative (BDCC) Bank, ending the three-decade reign of former BJP MP Ramesh Katti's faction.

Former Chikkodi MP Annasaheb Jolle (BJP) and Kagwad Congress MLA Bharamgouda (Raju) Kage were elected unopposed as president and vice-president, respectively, during the bank's elections held on Monday.

The Jarkiholi panel secured a majority in the 18-member board, while the Katti-led group managed to retain only five members. The victory followed a coordinated effort by the three Jarkiholi brothers, Minister Satish Jarkiholi (Congress) and BJP leaders Ramesh and Balachandra Jarkiholi, who set aside party differences to ensure their panel's win in the elections.

Katti, who headed the BDCC Bank for nearly 30 years, chose not to field its candidates this time citing inadequate support. His faction had recently defeated the Jarkiholi group in the elections to the Hukkeri Co-operative Electric Supply Society, the only co-operative in the country that independently generates and supplies power to its members.

Balachandra Jarkiholi said the panel had honoured its commitment by appointing a Lingayat leader as president of the bank. *—Salar News*

LAKSHA DEEPOTSAVA

Devotees during the 9th annual Laksha Deepotsava celebrations at Sri Rama Seva Mandali, in Bengaluru on Monday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD***

CISF constable killed as gate collapses at nuclear station

UTTARA KANNADA, 10 NOV

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) head constable was killed after a heavy iron gate collapsed on him at the Kaiga Atomic Power Station in Uttara Kannada district on Saturday night, officials said.

District police chief Deepan MN confirmed the incident, saying a probe was underway with CISF and Kaiga plant officials.

- The deceased was on night duty at the nuclear waste management unit when the gate suddenly gave way

The deceased, identified as Head Constable Shekhar Jagdale, 48, of Mahimanagar, Maharashtra, was on night duty at the nuclear waste management unit when the gate suddenly gave way, causing severe head injuries.

Fellow CISF personnel took him to the Primary Health Centre within the plant premises and later to KGS Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

The accident has shocked staff at the high-security facility operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and sparked concerns over safety. *—Salar News*

PARENTS ALLEGE NEGLIGENCE

Boy assaulted by classmates in school toilet

MYSURU, 10 NOV

A Class 7 student of a private school was allegedly assaulted by three classmates inside the school toilet in Mysuru, causing severe injuries to his private parts, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred last month, shortly after Diwali, and continued for three days, they said.

The 13-year-old boy, who underwent surgery for the injuries, told reporters that he was "targeted" by his classmates after he complained to a teacher about their "wrongdoings".

"I was the class leader and had informed the teacher about their behaviour. After that, they started targeting me," he said.

According to his parents, the boy sustained grievous injuries and was admitted to a private hospital, where one of his testicles had to be surgically removed. They said they have spent over Rs 2 lakh on medical expenses so far.

"My son went for recess, and these three children followed him and assaulted him inside the toilet. One of his testicles was damaged and had to be removed during treatment," the boy's father said.

He further alleged that a political leader contacted him and advised him not to pursue the case with the police.

"Footage of the assault has also been submitted to the police, but no action has been taken," he claimed.

"When we approached the school management, they treated us as if we were strangers.... The police also dismissed it as a normal issue," the boy's mother said.

The parents alleged that no disciplinary action has been taken against the three accused students.

"When we asked the school authorities, they said, 'For the sake of your son's life, should we ruin the lives of three children?'" the boy's mother alleged. *—PTI*

CITY TRANS WOMAN WAS KIDNAPPED, HEAD SHAVEN, SAY RIGHTS GROUPS

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

The Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism (MGSP) and other grouops condemnded the alleged kidnapping and assault of a transgender woman on 30 and 31 October. The groups said her head was forcibly shaven.

Sukanya, the victim, was abducted from KR Puram and subjected to brutal violence, including repeated beatings with a wooden stick and ladle on 30 October, the rights organisation said in a statement. Her head was then forcibly shaven. She was detained until 31 October.

"This brutal incident highlights how members of the hijra system, particularly those at the lowest levels of its hierarchy, often face violence on multiple fronts — their natal families, the police, the general public, and tragically, at times, from within their own communities," MGSP said. The organisation said an FIR has been lodged.

The group called for urgent action from the State government ensure justice for Sukanya and safety for all transgender persons.

Asha Kilaru, member of the Sarvatrika Aarogya Andolana Karnataka (SAAK), said: "SAAK stands firmly with the survivor." *—Salar News*

SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

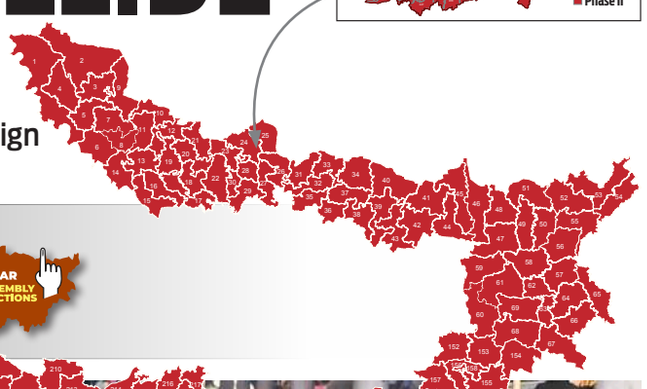
TUESDAY
11 NOVEMBER 2025

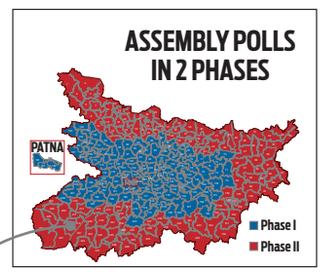
3

THE BIHAR SHOWDOWN

WHEN POWER, POLITICS AND POP CULTURE COLLIDE

Bihar heads to the second phase of polls on 11 November with high-voltage contests, star-studded campaigns, viral jingles, digital warfare and traditional caste politics. **Salar News** maps key seats, heavyweights, dynasties, and campaign innovations shaping Bihar's battle for power.





PHASE 2	SEATS	TOTAL SEATS	MAJORITY MARK	NO. OF CANDIDATES
11 NOVEMBER	122	243	122	1,302

ANGANWADI WORKERS TO CHECK IDENTITY OF BURQA-CLAD VOTERS

EC's move to deploy 90,000 anganwadi workers in Bihar to "verify the identity" of burqa/purdah-wearing women voters has sparked sharp criticism. While officials say the measure ensures dignified, women-led verification in privacy enclosures, critics argue it unfairly targets Muslims and risks undermining the EC's neutrality. BJP leader and Union Minister Giriraj Singh defended EC saying that it must be done and added that "this is not Pakistan where Sharia law operates". Meanwhile, SP has demanded the directive be withdrawn, calling it against free and fair polling.

POSTER WAR

As the Bihar election heated up, the campaign exploded into a full-blown poster war, with parties battling for narrative control through hoardings and billboards.

JD(U) FIRES FIRST SHOT

- JD(U) started the poster war in 2024 after it put up hoardings that read "25 se 30(pachees se tees), phir se Nitish".
- Congress youth wing countered with "Dekh liya hai saal bees (20), nahi challenge chacha Nitish".

RJD VS JD(U): HERO VS PUBLIC SERVANT

- RJD posters presented Tejashwi Yadav as "Nayak" (hero).
- JD(U) hits back branding Nitish Kumar as "Jansevak" (public servant).

IDENTITY PITCH HEATS UP

Poster near Rabri Devi's home dubbed Tejashwi "shudh desi Bihari" and mocked Chirag Paswan as an outsider. This is a bid to project Tejashwi as the authentic Bihari.

POSTERS REVEAL ALLIANCE CRACKS

At INDIA bloc manifesto launch (23 Oct), posters featured only Tejashwi, excluding other alliance leaders.

During Modi's 3 Nov roadshow, Nitish Kumar was missing from BJP posters, highlighting NDA tensions.

Research: Anushree Chakraborty, Amina Afaq, Siddharth Saldanha, Amol D Mishra and Jayasree Jayaprakash
Design: G Vishwanatha

Bihar's controversial music

Bihar's campaign trail turned into a full-blown musical battlefield. Supporters flooded social media with reels and songs loaded with clever digs and caste-coded messages, while loudspeakers blasted cheeky Bhojpuri tracks that sound more like dance hits than political slogans.

Police warned parties that "objectionable, double-meaning, caste-provocative" songs will invite action.

The political playlist includes tracks that pump up caste pride and claim rivals are "outsiders", while some videos are AI-generated or deepfakes designed to stir a divide.

Suggestive lyrics are blaring nonstop. Songs like 'Jo dega vote usay Russian delainge' (Whoever votes for us, we will give him a Russian woman) and 'Russian bantwa denge ration mein' (We will distribute Russian women along with ration supplies) have become the latest gimmicks. Here, "Russian" is a disturbing shorthand for foreign escorts, reducing women to commodities being traded for votes.

The song 'RJD sarkar banto, Yadav rangdaar banto' by Amit Aashiq went viral after men were seen dancing with firearms during an event in Bhagalpur ***PHOTO: PTI***

Some popular Bhojpuri singers celebrate caste pride, some mock rivals by name, some warn enemies to "stay indoors when we rule".

Adding more spice, Bhojpuri music videos from supporters of BJP, RJD, JDU, LJP and Congress glorify specific castes — Yadav, Bhumihar, Kushwaha — without saying the words outright.

Singer Gandhi Lal Yadav's Magahi track, 'bhaiya ke aave de satta, utha lebau ghar se re...' ('Let our brother come to power, and we'll drag you out of your home'), released weeks before Deepavali, is now a staple at pro-RJD gatherings.

The song 'RJD sarkar banto, Yadav rangdaar banto' ('Let the RJD form the government, and let the Yadavs become powerful/dominant') by Amit Aashiq went viral after men were seen dancing with firearms during an event in Bhagalpur.

Another song, 'Chirag bhaiya ke aave de satta, utha lebau ghar se re' (Let Chirag come to power, and we'll drag you out of your home) threatens a particular group of people.

THE POWER OF STARS

Bihar's high-voltage election campaign turned into a star-studded spectacle, with political parties leaning heavily on singers, actors and YouTubers to energise voters. Bhojpuri cinema figures such as Dinesh Lal Yadav "Nirahua" (left), Khesari Lal Yadav, Pawan Singh (right)and Ritesh Pandey are drawing crowds that often surpass those for traditional politicians.

RJD has placed its biggest bet on Bhojpuri superstar **Khesari Lal Yadav** in Chhapra, replacing long-time candidate Randhir Kumar Singh. His campaign songs, including 'Tejashwi ke bina sudhaar na hui...', have gone viral.

BJP is banking on folk singer **Maithili Thakur**, fielded from Alinagar, whose cultural appeal among Maithil Brahmins bolsters the party's outreach.

Meanwhile, Jan Suraaj has tapped actor-singer **Ritesh** in Kargahar.

MEET THE TWO SINGHAMS

Two former IPS officers, both nicknamed "Singhams" for their aggressive policing styles, are contesting the polls. They share strikingly similar trajectories: decorated police careers, cult public followings and recent leaps into electoral politics.

ANAND MISHRA

In Buxar, the BJP has fielded Anand Mishra, 44, an Assam-cadre officer known for anti-drug operations in Nagaon. A recipient of the President's Gallantry Medal and other honours, he quit service last year and contested the Lok Sabha polls independently, securing 47,000 votes. After a brief stint with Jan Suraaj, he joined the BJP in August. His assets total Rs 2.5 crore, though one case linked to a BPSC protest remains pending.

SHIVDEEP LANDE

Shivdeep Lande, 49, an independent candidate from Jamalpur, hails from a farming family in Akola, Maharashtra. A 2006-batch officer, he served as Patna SP, Tirhut DIG and Purnia IG, earning fame for crackdowns on crime. After resigning last year, he launched the Hindu Sena. His affidavit lists assets of Rs 20.74 lakh, while his entrepreneur-wife Mamta Shivtare Lande holds assets worth Rs 20.5 crore, including property in Mumbai and Pune.

SEATS IN FOCUS

NABINAGAR

This seat became a flashpoint between BJP and JD(U), with the latter refusing to give it up. Once a JD(U) stronghold, Nabinagar was won in 2020 by RJD's Vijay Kumar Singh alias Dabloo Singh, who defeated JD(U)'s Virendra Kumar Singh by 20,121 votes. This year, JD(U) has fielded Chetan Anand, son of gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan Singh. Chetan, an RJD MLA who won Sheohar in 2020, joined JD(U) on 10 October and was shifted to Nabinagar after surveys showed strong resentment against him in Sheohar.

CHETAN ANAND
Age: 33 | Party: JD(U)
Edu: Bachelor in Designing
Criminal cases: 2
Assets: Rs 1.46 cr

AMOD KUMAR SINGH
Age: 42 | Party: RJD
Edu: 12th pass
Criminal cases: 3
Assets: Rs 14 L

SHEOHAR

Sheohar is heavily influenced by gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan's family, with his son Chetan Anand as the sitting MLA. Chetan, who won the seat for RJD in 2020 before defecting to the NDA, faces embarrassment if the alliance fails to retain the seat, especially amid allegations that Nitish Kumar tweaked jail rules to release his father, convicted in a 1994 murder. This year, JSP has fielded Niraj Singh, while JD(U) has nominated newcomer and medical practitioner Shweta Gupta, one of its nine women candidates. RJD has named Supreme Court lawyer Navneet Kumar Jha, making him the party's 1st Brahmin nominee here in 15 years.

SHWETA GUPTA
Age: 44 | Party: JD(U)
Edu: Master's degree
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 28 cr

NAVNEET JHA
Age: 39 | Party: RJD
Education: LLB
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 7.7 cr

JOKIHAT

Jokihat has turned into one of Bihar's most riveting contests, with four heavyweight candidates, including three former ministers, vying for the seat. The sons of veteran leader Mohammad Taslimuddin are pitted against each other. Sitting MLA and former minister Shahnawaz Alam (RJD) faces his elder brother, former MP and minister Sarfaraz Alam (Jan Suraaj). They are up against Murshid Alam of AIMIM and former JD(U) minister Manjar Alam. With over 65% Muslim voters, the Taslimuddin family has won Jokihat 11 of 16 times.

SHAHNAWAZ ALAM
Age: 43 | Party: RJD
Edu: Graduate
Criminal cases: 1
Assets: Rs 42 L

SARFARAZ ALAM
Age: 56 | Party: JSP
Edu: Graduate
Criminal cases: 2
Assets: Rs 1.2

PURNIA

Purnia is a key BJP stronghold, held by the party since 2000. The region, part of Seemanchal, saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi launch the poll campaign. He inaugurated the Rs 424 crore Purnia Airport on 15 September. Purnia has a 38.46% Muslim population — the second highest in the state after Kishanganj. In 2020, BJP's Vijay Kumar Khemka secured the seat.

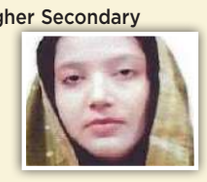
VIJAY KUMAR KHEMKA
Age: 66 | Party: BJP
Edu: Higher secondary school
Criminal cases: 1
Assets: Rs 1.42 cr

JITENDRA KUMAR
Age: 49 | Party: Cong
Edu: N/A
Criminal cases: 3
Assets: Rs 5.05 cr

KARAKAT

Karakat has become the stage for family drama. Jyoti Singh, estranged wife of Bhojpuri actor and BJP member Pawan Singh, filed her nomination as an Independent just days after her husband withdrew from the race, calling himself a "true soldier" of BJP. Jyoti, who campaigned for him in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, drew strong local support. Her decision came after a meeting with Prashant Kishor. The couple's public feud over infidelity and harassment has intensified the spotlight on the constituency. Three different parties won here in 2010 (BJP), 2015 (RJD) and 2020. CPI(ML)L's Arun Singh is the sitting MLA. Adding to the political weight, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth Rs 48,520 crore in Karakat on 30 May.

JYOTI SINGH,
Age: 30 | Party: Independent
Edu: Higher Secondary School
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs. 18 L



ARUN SINGH,
Age: 56 | Party: CPI(ML)L
Edu: Higher Secondary School
Criminal cases: 2
Assets: Rs 26.77 L

First-time voters show their fingers marked with ink after casting their votes in first phase of Bihar polls ***PHOTO: PTI***

SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

TUESDAY
11 NOVEMBER 2025

4

THE BIHAR SHOWDOWN

PK: THE WILD CARD

Prashant Kishor, once the master strategist for both NDA and the Mahagathbandhan, is now seeking to upend Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad Yadav's politics. Instead of advising leaders, he launched his own party, Jan Suraaj, which is contesting all 243 seats. He decided not to contest but his party is the only entrant fighting statewide. He insists he will not join any alliance.

PULLS OUT OF CONTEST

There was strong buzz that PK would take on Tejashwi Yadav in Raghopur, but he surprised everyone by fielding another candidate, Chanchal Singh, and announcing that he himself would not contest. He said party workers wanted him to focus on helping other candidates win but BJP and RJD mocked him, saying he "quit before the fight began".

THE THIRD FRONT

Even without contesting, PK's party is creating ripples. Jan Suraaj is pitching itself as a fresh alternative to the two big blocs, talking about jobs, education and migration instead of caste politics. Financially and digitally, it is punching above its weight — it is the second-highest spender on Meta ads in Bihar after BJP, ahead of RJD, JD(U) and Congress combined. The party is also growing quickly, with leaders like former JD(U) president RCP Singh merging into it.

SPLIT VOTE SHARE

In the 2024 bypolls, Jan Suraaj got around 10% votes in the four seats it contested small but significant in a state where elections are extremely close. In 2020, NDA won the polls agains MGB by just 0.03% vote share. A 5–10 per cent vote shift to Jan Suraaj this time could easily change results in many seats.

This makes PK's party a real third front, a potential spoiler for both NDA and Mahagathbandhan. It can split votes, attract young and undecided voters, and make many contests unpredictable.

Seemanchal at the centre as Phase 2 tests heavyweight

Regions' heavy Muslim voters & high-profile defections make it a 'do-or-die' for parties

PATNA, 10 NOV

Most districts voting in the second and final phase of the Bihar assembly elections fall in the Seemanchal region, which has a high concentration of Muslim voters. This makes the contest particularly high-stakes for both the INDIA bloc, which relies heavily on minority support, and the ruling NDA, which continues to accuse the opposition of "protecting infiltrators".

Among the most prominent candidates in the fray is Bijendra Prasad Yadav, veteran JD(U) leader and the senior-most member of the state cabinet, who seeks to retain his Supaul seat for a record eighth consecutive term. A similar test awaits his cabinet colleague Prem Kumar of the BJP, who is contesting again from Gaya Town — a constituency he has won seven times in a row since 1990.

The phase will also decide the electoral fate of several ministers, including BJP's Renu Devi (Bettiah) and Neeraj Kumar Singh "Bablu" (Chhatapur), and JD(U)'s Leshi Singh (Dhamdaha), Sheela Mandal (Phulparas) and Zama Khan (Chainpur). Another key BJP figure in the field is former deputy chief minister Tarkishore Prasad, who is aiming to secure the Katihar seat for the fifth straight term.

Katihar district is further in the spotlight as Balrampur and Kadwa constituencies, represented by CPI(ML) Liberation's Mehboob Alam and Congress leader Shakeel Ahmed Khan, respectively, see both lawmakers seeking hat-trick victories.

The phase is also a crucial test for minor NDA partners — the Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM), led by Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM). Both parties have been allotted six seats each. All six HAM-contested constituencies go to polls in this phase. Of these, Imamganj, Barachatti, Tikari and Sikandra are currently held by the party, and the sitting MLAs have been renominated. Manjhi represented Imamganj until his 2024 Lok Sabha win from Gaya; the seat was retained in the subsequent bypoll by his daughter-in-law Dipa. For the fledgling RLM, this election marks an early organisational test. Its candidates include Kushwaha's wife Snehlata (Sasaram) and his close aide Madhaw Anand (Madhubani), both contesting their first assembly poll. Four of the party's six nominees are in the second phase. *—PTI*

FAMILY FIRST, PLEASE

Bihar's election once again highlights the dominance of dynastic politics across party lines, including the BJP and RJD. A recent ADR report notes that regional parties like the RJD and JD(U) exhibit 30–40% dynasticism, warning that it "creates a birth-based ruling class".

UPENDRA KUSHWAHA
MP & Rashtriya Lok Morcha Chief

SNEHLATA KUSHWAHA
RELATION: WIFE
PARTY: RLM SEAT: SASARAM

Snehalata Kushwaha's nomination signals RLM's attempt to consolidate the crucial Koeri-Kushwaha OBC bloc in Sasaram, where Kushwaha, Yadav, Brahmin, Rajput and Dalit voters dominate. A political newcomer, she is being projected as a symbol of women's empowerment, backed by her husband, who faces criticism for fielding her after bagging only six seats in the NDA's 243-seat arrangement. She is expected to advance his "education and empowerment" agenda. The seat is currently held by RJD's Rajesh Kumar Gupta.

JAGANNATH MISHRA
ex-chief minister

NITISH MISHRA
RELATION: SON
PARTY: BJP SEAT: JHANJHARPUR

This seat is dominated by Mishra family. It is the seat from which former CM Jagannath Mishra won 2 consecutive polls between 1972 and 1990. A towering Congress leader before the rise of Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mishra served three terms as CM (1975–77, 1980–83, 1989–90) and later held Union portfolios, including Agriculture and Rural Development. His decision to grant Urdu the status of Bihar's second official language earned him the nickname "Maulana" Jagannath. His career, however, was later overshadowed by his conviction in the fodder scam.

However, his son joined BJP and is seeking a fourth term from here. Congress has won nine times from here, JD(U) three, RJD twice, while BJP, Janata Party and Samyukta Socialist Party have each won once. Nitish current serves as Industries Minister in the NDA govt

JITAN RAM MANJHI
Union Minister

DEEPA MANJHI
RELATION: DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
PARTY: HAM SEAT: IMAMGANJ

Deepa comes from the influential Manjhi family, which has long dominated the SC-reserved Imamganj. A former social activist who worked to improve education for Musahar children, she won the 2024 bypoll from here. She is the wife of HAM President and Bihar minister Santosh Suman and daughter-in-law of former CM and Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, who won the seat in 2015 and 2020. Imamganj has a heavy Scheduled Caste population of 38%, followed by Manjhi and Paswan communities. The seat has historically swung between Congress, Janata Dal and socialist parties.

KARPOORI THAKUR
ex-chief minister

JAGRITI THAKUR
RELATION: GRANDDAUGHTER
PARTY: JAN SURAAJ SEAT: MORWA

Jagriti entered politics in 2024 by joining Prashant's Jan Suraaj Party, which is using her candidacy to tap into one of Bihar's most powerful political legacies. She is the granddaughter of ex-CM and "Jan Nayak" Karpoori Thakur, the architect of Bihar's OBC reservation framework. Her father, Virendra Nath Thakur, is his younger son, while her uncle Ramnath Thakur is a JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP and Union minister.

Karpoori remains central to Bihar's politics even decades after his death. His 1978 reservation formula for OBCs, EBCs, women and economically weaker upper castes reshaped the state's social order and paved the way for the Mandal era. A leader from the Nai (EBC) community, he was known as a champion of the poor and mentored leaders such as Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar and Ram Vilas Paswan.

Today, every major party claims his legacy from BJP awarding him the Bharat Ratna in 2024, to RJD and JD(U) projecting themselves as his true ideological heirs. By fielding Jagriti, Prashant aims to position Jan Suraaj as the new inheritor of Karpoori's social justice vote bank.

PARTIES SPEND CRORES TO TREND ONLINE

Politics is going digital like never before. Catchy jingles like 'Aiye na humra Bihar mein' and 'Modi ji hai toh mumkin hai' aren't just songs, they're carefully crafted content designed to trend online. Parties are now spending like brands, using social media, influencers and targeted ads to get attention, not just win votes.

INFLUENCER MARKETING
EXPENSE IN BIHAR SURGED 5 TIMES SINCE 2020

2020: ₹20–25 crore | 2025: ₹100–120 crore

Jan Suraaj Party emerges as 2nd-highest digital spender

Party	Total expense (₹)	MONEY SPENT: Google + YouTube	MONEY SPENT: Meta (Facebook)
BJP	8.52 cr	6.75 cr	1.77 cr
JSP	2.32 cr	1.10 cr	1.21 cr
JD(U)	92L	28L	63L
Cong	7.59L	17,250	7.41L
RJD	6.16L	Nil	6.16L

Source: Alt News

WINNER TAKES ALL

Bypoll battle in seven states to test strongholds

Eight seats in seven states go to bypolls with contests that are shaped by local rivalries and shifting loyalties. From Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills to Budgam in J&K, the outcomes will signal changing undercurrents ahead of more assembly elections next year.

Jubilee Hills (Telangana)

The Jubilee Hills bypoll, triggered by the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath, is a high-stakes contest for both Congress and the KTR-led BRS. The constituency, with about 30% Muslim voters, IT hubs, and high-net-worth residents alongside large slum pockets, is seen as a microcosm of Hyderabad. BRS has fielded Gopinath's daughter Sunitha in its stronghold seat. A BRS defeat would signal Congress gaining ground, while a BRS win would show Hyderabad still backing the pink party

NAVEEN YADAV V
Age: 41 | Party: Cong
Edu: BA (Architecture)
Criminal Cases: 7
Assets: Rs 30 cr

MAGANTI SUNITHA GOPINATH
Age: 54 | Party: BRS
Edu: SSC
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: Rs 11.85 cr

Budgam (J&K)

CM Omar Abdullah won both Budgam and Ganderbal in Oct 2024 but retained his family bastion Ganderbal, prompting the bypoll. Since taking office, he has faced criticism over his failure to restore statehood and for not delivering on promises such as free electricity. The seat gains significance amid infighting in NC and Omar's growing rift with Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah, who wields influence here. The bypoll is the 1st major test for NC government, with BJP eyeing openings. The contest has turned into a no-holds-barred, intensely personal fight within influential Shia community, with three Agas pitted against one another.

AGA SYED MAHMOOD AL MOSAVI
Age: 69 | Party: NC
Edu: BA
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 15.28 cr

AGA SYED MOHSIN MOSVI
Age: 46 | Party: BJP
Edu: SEC matric
Criminal cases: 1
Assets: Rs 1.79 cr

AGA SYED MUNTANZIR MUTANZIR MEHDI
Age: 32 | Party: PDP
Edu: LLM
Criminal cases: 0
Assets: N/A

Nagrota (J&K)

BJP's Devender Singh Rana died on 31 Oct 2024, leaving the seat vacant. BJP's Devyani Rana will look to hold the saffron stronghold and safeguard her father's legacy while NC and the People's Panthers Party seek to gain a ground and woo the Gujjar and Rajput population.

DEVYANI RANA
Age: 30 | Party: BJP
Edu: BA
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 91.23 L

SHAMIM BEGUM
Age: 37 | Party: NC
Edu: MA
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 35 L

HARSH DEV SINGH
Age: 65 | Party: PPP
Edu: Adv course in Intl Humanitarian Law
Criminal case: 3
Assets: Rs 11.71 L

Anta (Rajasthan)

BJP MLA Kanwarlal Meena was disqualified in May after being sentenced to three years for threatening then Aklera town Sub-Divisional Officer Ram Niwas Mehta with a revolver in 2005. The contest has become a three-way fight with Congress fielding a former Union minister, AAP national Convener Arvind Kejriwal endorsing an Independent and the BJP looking to hold power.

PRAMOD JAIN 'BHAYA'
Age: 58 | Party: Cong
Edu: 12th pass
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 42.33 cr

MORPAL SUMAN
Age: 56 | Party: BJP
Edu: 10th pass
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 1 cr

NARESH MEENA
Age: 46 | Party: Independent
Education: BA from Rajasthan University
Criminal case: 22
Assets: Rs 1.13

Tarn Taran (Punjab)

The seat became vacant after AAP's Kashmir Singh Sohal died in June 2025. The ruling party has won 5 of the 6 bypolls in Punjab recently and has now placed its faith in a SAD turncoat, who has won the seat three times prior, while BJP looks to regain influence in the state.

HARMEET SINGH SANDHU
Age: 54 | Party: AAP
Education: BA
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 4.6 cr

HARJIT SINGH SANDHU,
Age: 40 | Party: BJP
Edu: 12th pass
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 2.96 cr

Dampa (Mizoram)

The Dampa bypoll, triggered by the July 2025 death of MNF MLA Lalrintluanga Sailo, is a crucial test for both MNF and the ruling ZPM. The ST-reserved border constituency in Mamit district has about 20,000 voters, including sizeable Chakma and Reang populations. With ZPM, MNF, Congress and BJP in a four-cornered fight, the outcome will signal shifting political currents. A ZPM loss could slow its momentum, while an MNF win is vital to retain stature and revive ahead of the 2028 Assembly polls.

R LATHANGLIANA
Age: 69 | Party: MNF
Edu: PhD
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 4.9 cR

VANLALSAILOVA
Age: 46 | Party: ZPM
Edu: 11th pass
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 61 L

Nuapada (Odisha)

The bypoll, triggered by BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia's death in Sept 2025. In a dramatic shift, his son Jay Dholakia joined ruling BJP and became its candidate, prompting BJD to field ex-minister and women's wing chief Snehangini Chhuria. Cong has nominated tribal leader Majhi. BJP hopes to capture the seat by riding the sympathy wave, while BJD fights to retain it. On 6 Oct, CM Mohan Majhi announced ₹1,100 crore in projects for the district.

JAY DHOLAKIA,
Age: 32 | Party: BJP
Edu: BSc
Criminal case: 0
Assets: Rs 2.24 cr

SNEHANGINI CHURRIA,
Age: 56 | Party: BJD
Edu: MA & BEd
Criminal case: 4
Assets: Rs 2.68 cr

PREPS ON

Officials carry EVMs and polling materials as part of preparations on the eve of the second phase of voting in the Bihar on Monday
PHOTO: PTI

PHOTO: PTI

Court postpones framing of charges against Lalu, family

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

A Delhi court has postponed its order on whether to frame charges in the land-for-job scam involving former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, his family, and others until 4 December. Special CBI Judge Vishal Gogne heard the case filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which has charged Lalu Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, and son Tejashwi Yadav with fraud. The case alleges that railway positions were awarded in exchange for land parcels given to Yadav's family during his ministerial tenure from 2004 to 2009. The CBI claims this constituted criminal misconduct, while the accused maintain the charges are politically motivated. The court had previously reserved its decision after extensive arguments from both sides..*—PTI*

BJP will bring Tatas back to Bengal: Suvendu

KOLKATA, 10 NOV

Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal, pledged that the BJP will bring back the Tata group for investment if it wins the 2026 Assembly elections. Speaking at a rally in Burdwan, he stated, "If the BJP comes to power, Tata will invest in a big way in Bengal and won't have to leave in such an unceremonious manner," referencing Tata Motors' exit from Singur in 2008. Adhikari promised a corruption-free administration and transparency in employment processes, while blaming the TMC for illegal infiltrators in the state. He accused the ruling party of hindering development and assured the public that days of unemployment and debt would end under a BJP government.*—PTI*

Kerala local body polls to take place on 9, 11 Dec

T'PURAM, 10 NOV

The Kerala State Election Commission on Monday announced that local body polls will be held in two phases on 9 and 11 December, with counting on 13 December. Polling in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Idukki and Ernakulam districts will be held on 9 December, while voters in Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod will cast ballots on 11 December. Poll panel chief A Shajahan said voting will run from 7am to 6pm across 1,199 of 1,200 local bodies, with Mattannur Municipality excluded as its term runs until 2027. The elections will cover 23,512 municipal wards. *—PTI*

MNS to ally with MVA for Nashik local body polls

NASHIK, 10 NOV

A Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader on Monday said the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) had finalised an alliance with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for local body polls in Nashik. However, MNS leader Dinkar Patil, who made the announcement, added that Thackeray will take the final call in the matter. The MVA comprises Uddhav Thackeray led Shiv Sena (UBT), Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (SP) and the Congress. Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader DL Karad said all parties have decided to contest the forthcoming elections together to reduce the influence of the ruling Mahayuti comprising the BJP, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP. Meanwhile, former NCP MP Sameer Bhujbal held discussions with Maharashtra minister Girish Mahajan on Monday.*—PTI*

Tejashwi corners EC over gender-wise turnout data

Trains used to ferry Haryana BJP workers to Bihar, says Sibal

PATNA/NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

RJD leader and INDIA bloc chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav on Monday criticised the Election Commission of India (ECI) for "not disclosing gender-wise data" of electors who cast their votes in the first phase of the Bihar assembly polls even after four days of the voting.

Addressing a press conference here, he claimed that the RJD-helmed opposition coalition will not allow "vote theft or dishonesty".

"The EC has not disclosed the gender-wise data of electors who cast their votes on 6 November even after four days have passed from the first phase of assembly polls. This is happening for the first time. Earlier, it was given immediately," he claimed.

Meanwhile, amid criticism of the EC by Yadav for "not disclosing" the male-female data of the first phase, officials on Monday underlined that the gender-wise turnout ratio is generally given at the time of final turnout.

RJD leader and Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav addresses a press conference, in Patna, on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

Officials said the overall gender ratio in voter turnout is "generally" given at the time of final turnout.

Additionally, Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday questioned the Railway Ministry over the four special trains run from Haryana to Bihar on 3 November, carrying 6,000 people, saying its explanation has "exposed" it further, and claimed the trains were "full of BJP workers".

There was no immediate response from the Railways to Sibal's fresh claims.

In a separate but related matter, the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar has destroyed the state by finishing off its education and healthcare systems, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed during an interaction with youngsters.

Gandhi put out on X a video on Monday of his recent interaction with a group of Gen Z youngsters and said this generation believes in 'satya' (truth) and 'ahimsa' (non-violence), and will lead India towards brighter future. *—PTI*

'Vande Mataram must in all UP schools'

GORAKHPUR, 10 NOV

Amid an escalating political row over Vande Mataram, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday announced that singing the national song will be made mandatory across all schools and educational institutions in the state.

Speaking at an Ekta Yatra event in Gorakhpur, Adityanath said the move aims to instil national pride, discipline, and unity among citizens.

"There should be respect for the national song. It's not religious, it's about reverence for our motherland," he said, recalling how Vande Mataram became the battle cry of India's freedom struggle and inspired generations of revolutionaries.

Adityanath accused the Congress and Samajwadi Party of weakening India's unity by "distorting or opposing" Vande Mataram. He claimed that Congress' 1937 decision to drop certain stanzas sowed seeds of division and alleged that "appeasement politics" had continued since. He also criticised those refusing to honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel while praising divisive leaders.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath pays tribute to Rani Laxmi Bai during Ekta Yatra as part of the nationwide celebrations, in Gorakhpur *PHOTO: PTI*

The Chief Minister launched the Ekta Yatra, covering all 403 Assembly constituencies, alongside Run for Unity events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram and pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

GUV TO LEAD RALLY IN KOLKATA

Meanwhile, in Kolkata, West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose led a Vande Mataram March from the Indian Museum to Raj Bhavan, joined by thousands of schoolchildren and cultural groups, to mark the same milestone.

Vande Mataram, penned by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875 and published in his novel Anandamath, remains a symbol of India's awakening, resistance, and unity, officially adopted as the national song in 1950. *—PTI*

AHEAD OF BYPOLLS

A polling official checks an EVM machine before deployment to Nagrota constituency in Jammu *PHOTO: PTI*

Parties allege illegal EVMs transfer

BHUBANESWAR/ AIZAWL/ JAMMU, 10 NOV

Odisha chief electoral officer (CEO) RS Goapalan on Monday rejected the opposition BJD's allegation that a truckload of electronic voting machines (EVMs) was covertly moved from Ganjam district to Nuapada on 9 November ahead of the by-election to the constituency.

Goapalan said the CEO's office has received a complaint regarding the transportation of EVMs from Ganjam to Nuapada.

Goapalan said that each district has its own. EVMs to be used in the Nuapada bypoll were procured only from the EVM warehouse in the district, which was secured by police and CCTV surveillance.

The warehouses in Ganjam district were intact. Though warehouses are opened every three months for inspection, it has not even been opened this month.

The BJD submitted the list of booths where the new EVMs were planned to be planted.

Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly Naveen Patnaik also alleged serious violations during the 48-hour silence period in the Nuapada Assembly bypoll as BJP leaders and workers from outside attempted to influence voters.

Over 2.53 lakh voters will vote at 358 polling booths in Nuapada to decide the fate of 14 candidates.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India (ECI) reprimanded Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma for "violation" of the model code of conduct (MCC) while canvassing votes for his party in the Dampa assembly bypoll. The Mizo National Front (MNF) alleged that the CM, during the campaign had announced a new water supply project.

Jammu CM Omar Abdullah expressed confidence that the ruling NC will win the Budgam assembly bypoll. *—PTI*

TN to protest against SIR today

CHENNAI/KOLKATA, 10 NOV

The political storm over the Centre's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) initiative widened on Monday, with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launching sharp attacks on the move, calling it undemocratic and intrusive.

Stalin announced a statewide protest on 11 November, calling the SIR a "flawed and opaque system that threatens state autonomy". He accused the Union government of attempting to centralise power under the guise of evaluation and urged opposition parties and civil groups to join the agitation. The DMK and CPI(M) have also moved the Supreme Court, challenging the SIR's constitutional validity and describing the one-month timeline for enumeration as "arbitrary and humanly impossible".

In West Bengal, Banerjee branded the SIR as "votebandi", comparing it to demonetisation. She alleged the exercise was being used to intimidate citizens and suppress voting rights, demanding that the Election Commission halt it immediately.

Meanwhile, minority organisations and mosque committees across Bengal have launched statewide awareness drives to help people navigate the SIR process amid fears of voter exclusion, especially among marginalised groups.

The AIADMK, however, defended the revision, with party chief Edappadi K Palaniswami accusing the DMK of "spreading misinformation" and insisting the one-month schedule was sufficient for voter list updates.

The controversy has sharpened regional tensions and reignited debate over federal rights and electoral integrity ahead of crucial state elections. *—Agencies*

Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin *PHOTO: PTI*

Man in WB's Nadia dies, family blames SIR

KOLKATA, 10 NOV

A 70-year-old man died in Nadia district on Monday, with his family alleging that the death was due to anxiety linked to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, police said. The deceased, identified as Shyamal Kumar Saha, was a resident of Krishnachakpur Mandalpara under Taherpur Police Station, and he had stopped taking food due to SIR anxiety, they said.

Investigation revealed that Saha, despite possessing all valid documents, remained fearful since the announcement of the SIR of electoral rolls. *—PTI*

RS 300 CROORE DEAL

Pawar land row: Eviction notice to Botanical Survey declared 'illegal'

PUNE, 10 NOV

- The sale of land in the city's upscale Mundhwa area for Rs 300 crore to Amadea, in which Ajit 's son Parth Pawar is a majority partner, is under scrutiny amid allegations of irregularities and a lack of requisite clearances.

Days after the controversial 40-acre Pune land deal by a firm linked to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, a now-suspended tehsildar issued an eviction notice to the property's long-standing tenant, Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

Pune district collector Jitendra Dudi said the notice was "illegal".

In an eviction notice, the then tehsildar Suryakant Yeole had informed the BSI that the company, Amadea Enterprises LLP, "legally" acquired the property.

The sale of land in the city's upscale Mundhwa area for Rs 300 crore to Amadea, in which Ajit 's son **Parth Pawar** is a majority partner, is under scrutiny amid allegations of irregularities and a lack of requisite clearances. The Opposition alleged its market value to be Rs 1,800 crore.

The sale deed for the 40-acre 'Mahar Watan' land, denoting hereditary landholding to the Mahar (scheduled caste) community, was executed by Amadea in May this year.

Yeole reportedly issued the notice based on claims made by the original 'watandars' -- 272 'owners' -- that they had paid the "occupancy price" through demand drafts and that the plot granted to the government now belonged to them. *—PTI*

Abhishek Banerjee backs same-sex marriage in Bengal

KOLKATA, 10 AUG

Senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee on Monday congratulated Sundarbans residents Riya Sardar and Rakhi Naskar on their same-sex marriage during a local felicitation, using the moment to underline TMC's inclusive stance and target the BJP's conservative position on equality.

Riya Sardar of Mandirbazar and Rakhi Naskar of Bakultala in Kultali block, both professional dancers in their early twenties, tied the knot on 4 November at the Paler Chak temple in Jalaberia.

The ceremony unfolded in a deeply conservative corner of the Sundarbans where such public assertions of identity are rare. The couple was felicitated at TMC-organised event in Kultali by Mathurapur MP Bapi Halder, local MLA Ganeshchandra Mondal and others. Banerjee describing the marriage as a watershed moment for Bengal and said his party rejected "BJP's rigidity". Party insiders described Banerjee's intervention as "deliberate and strategic", signalling TMC's intent to project itself as an inclusive and socially progressive platform, especially for marginalised gender identities. *—PTI*

2020 riots: Court sets aside order to probe Kapil Mishra

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

- The court reviewed revision pleas from Mishra and the Delhi Police challenging a magistrate's ruling, which referenced multiple incidents during the riots.

A Delhi court has dismissed an order directing the police to conduct a "further investigation" into Delhi Law Minister Kapil Mishra's alleged involvement in the 2020 communal riots, citing a "serious jurisdictional error." Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh emphasised the necessity for judicial orders impacting rights and liberties to be "unambiguous and free from conflicting interpretations."

The court was reviewing revision pleas from Mishra and the Delhi Police challenging a magistrate's 1 April ruling, which referenced multiple incidents during the riots, including an alleged incident on 23 February, 2020. Judge Singh noted that the magistrate had expressed concerns over the investigation's thoroughness but failed to explicitly direct the registration of a new FIR.

The court highlighted that the magistrate's comments on the prosecution's case were premature, as the matter was already under trial in a higher court. "To initiate legal action, the application should have clearly disclosed the commission of a cognisable offence, which it lacks," the judge stated. *—PTI*

Andhra revises Cyclone Montha loss to Rs 6,384 cr

AMARAVATI, 10 NOV

The Andhra Pradesh government has revised the estimated loss from Cyclone Montha to Rs 6,384 crore and sought urgent central aid of Rs 901.4 crore, following an assessment by a central team on Monday.

An eight-member Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) led by Pasumi Basu from the Home Ministry and K Ponnuswamy from the Agriculture Ministry toured the affected areas to assess damage, initially pegged at Rs 5,265 crore.

In a briefing to the IMCT, state officials reported widespread, unprecedented losses across 24 districts, affecting agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, irrigation, housing, and infrastructure. *—PTI*

'SAW MAN LYING IN BLOOD'

Train firing: RPF cop said 'this is revenge for 2008', witness tells court

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

A witness in the July 2023 train firing incident told a court here on Monday that he saw a bearded man lying in a pool of blood and an RPF personnel carrying a rifle standing nearby saying "this is revenge for 2008".

Former Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable **Chetan Singh Chaudhary** is accused of shooting dead his senior colleague, Assistant Sub-Inspector Tika Ram Meena, and three passengers on the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express near Palghar railway station in Maharashtra on 31 July, 2023. He was held soon after from the tracks while trying to flee.

The witness, a GST executive who was travelling in S-6 coach of the train, said he saw a bearded man lying in a pool of blood and an RPF person standing there with his rifle.

The witness, who testified before Additional Sessions Judge YB Pathan (Dindoshi Court), said he was returning to Mumbai from a vacation.

The witness said he got scared after witnessing the horrific scene and started walking towards the other side of the compartment, during which time he heard the RPF personnel saying "yeh 2008 ka badla hai" (It is revenge for 2008).

This statement of the accused was purportedly in reference to the 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai that year. Ten Pakistani terrorists gunned down 166 persons in multiple coordinated attacks over a period of 60 hours that began on 26 November.

While being examined by additional public prosecutor Sudhir Sapkale, the witness said he saw the RPF constable moving towards the S-5 coach and alighting from it onto the tracks. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

SC junks Amritpal's plea challenging his detention

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea filed by radical preacher and Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh challenging his detention under the National Security Act (NSA). A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria asked Singh to approach the Punjab and Haryana High Court with his plea. The top court asked the HC to decide his plea within six weeks. Singh, the Chief of the 'Waris Punjab De' outfit, is currently lodged in Assam jail along with nine associates. He also sought permission from the court to attend the upcoming session of the Parliament as an elected representative. —*PTI*

Ex-Chief Secy Jayakumar named as TDB President

T'PURAM, 10 NOV

The Kerala government has appointed former Chief Secretary K Jayakumar as president of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), which manages major shrines including Sabarimala. A gazette notification said he will take charge on 14 November, succeeding P S Prasanth, whose term ends a day earlier. Jayakumar, a retired IAS officer, earlier served as Devaswom Special Commissioner at Sabarimala and later as founding Vice-Chancellor of Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University. His appointment, amid a row over missing temple gold, comes ahead of the Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage starting 17 November. —*PTI*

Tank burst floods homes, washes away cars in Kochi

KOCHI, 10 NOV

Several houses were flooded and vehicles swept away after a portion of a water tank at Kerala Water Authority's (KWA) feeder pump house collapsed at Thammanam here early Monday. The tank has two chambers with a total capacity of around 1.38 crore litres. The gushing water broke through the compound wall of the pump house before entering about 10 nearby houses. The feeder tank boosts water supply to Kochi city and Tripunithura areas. Thrikakkara MLA Uma Thomas urged the KWA to provide immediate compensation to residents who suffered property loss. KWA officials said arrangements would be made to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the city and its neighbouring areas. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Dharmendra hospitalised, in critical condition

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Veteran actor Dharmendra, 89, remains hospitalised in south Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital, with sources describing his health as "not in a great state" though stable. An industry insider confirmed the actor has been under treatment for several days. Son Sunny Deol's representative, however, refuted rumours that the Sholay star was on ventilator support. "Dharam ji is still in the hospital. The doctors have not advised him to go home. He is recovering and under observation. He is not on ventilator," the spokesperson told PTI. The veteran, affectionately called He-Man of Bollywood, has been receiving regular medical care in recent years, and doctors continue to monitor his condition closely. —*PTI*

Women 'largest minority' in India: SC

Apex court seeks Centre's reply on plea for implementation of 2023 Women Reservation Act

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The Supreme Court on Monday described women as the "largest minority" in India and questioned why their political representation cannot be ensured without waiting for reservation to take effect.

"Why not give women representation even without reservation?" asked Justice BV Nagarathna, heading a two-judge Bench with Justice R Mahadevan. The Bench was hearing a plea by Dr Jaya Thakur challenging provisions of the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' (Constitution 106th Amendment Act), which grants 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Senior advocate Shobha Gupta and advocate Varun Thakur, appearing for the petitioner, pointed out that although the law was assented to by President Droupadi Murmu in September 2023, its implementation remains stalled. "Why delay the vandan?" Gupta asked.

PHOTO: PTI

Justice Nagarathna said the amendment sought to deliver "political justice", placing it on par with social and economic justice. "Women form 48.44 per cent of the population. They are the largest minority," she observed, citing Article 15(3), which empowers the State to take special measures for women's advancement.

The court issued notice to the Union government through the Home and Law Ministries. The petitioner argued that other constitutional amendments, including the 73rd, 74th and 77th, and the 10 per cent EWS quota were implemented without awaiting census data.

"A constitutional amendment cannot be held back indefinitely," the plea said, adding that women's underrepresentation in Parliament and State Legislatures persists even after 75 years of independence.

Justice Nagarathna noted that while the census would quantify the population to scientifically reserve seats, identifying constituencies for women "should have been done before the Act came into force." —*Agencies*

SC seeks report from NHAI, govt over R'than crash

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the NHAI and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways over the Phalodi highway crash in Rajasthan that claimed 15 lives. A Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi issued notices to both authorities, directing them to reply within two weeks. The court asked for a detailed survey of the accident stretch, including the number of roadside dhabas and the condition of the Bharat Mala Highway. The suo motu case concerns the 2 November collision that killed 10 women and four children.

Have seen our morphed pics: CJI flags perils of AI

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Chief Justice of India BR Gavai on Monday said he had seen a morphed video circulating online that falsely showed a shoe-throwing incident in his courtroom.

The remark came as a Bench of CJI Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran heard a plea seeking guidelines to regulate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the judiciary. During the hearing, when the petitioner's counsel began discussing the perils of AI, the CJI interjected, saying, "We are aware of it, we have seen the morphed video of us (two)."

The petition, filed with the assistance of advocate Abhinav Shrivastava, urges the framing of a regulatory framework to ensure unbiased and transparent AI integration in judicial functions. It warns that Generative AI (GenAI) systems, driven by machine learning, risk embedding systemic biases due to opaque data processes, often called "black box" algorithms.

It argues that such opacity could produce flawed or "hallucinated" legal data, including fabricated case laws or modified court remarks, undermining Article 14's equality guarantee. The plea also flags potential cyberattack threats and violations of citizens' right to information under Article 19(1)(a).

The court has posted the matter for further hearing in two weeks. —*Agencies*

The arms and ammunition recovered by Faridabad and Jammu and Kashmir police from the rented space of Muzammil Shakeel **PHOTO: PTI**

Police uncover 'white-collar' terror network in joint ops

SRINAGAR, 10 NOV

- Authorities said the module aimed to "institutionalise radicalisation" by blending extremist propaganda into legitimate professional spaces

Jammu & Kashmir Police said on Sunday they have dismantled an inter-state and transnational "white-collar" terror module that allegedly connected radicalised professionals, students and handlers of proscribed groups Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH).

The investigation began after JeM posters surfaced in Nowgam on 19 October, prompting raids that led to the seizure of arms, explosives and digital evidence across Srinagar, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Shopian, Faridabad and Saharanpur. So far, eight suspects have been arrested, including three medical professionals accused of coordinating logistics, fund movement and communications for the terror network.

Police sources said the accused used encrypted messaging apps to contact handlers in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Preliminary forensic analysis of seized phones revealed multiple foreign numbers. Investigators suspect the group generated funds through academic circles, non-profits and online donations disguised as relief or education initiatives.

Authorities said the module aimed to "institutionalise radicalisation" by blending extremist propaganda into legitimate professional and educational spaces. Several digital storage devices, laptops and documents containing coded data were sent for decryption.

Officials added that the seized explosives, totalling nearly 2,900 kg, were not military-grade RDX but industrial compounds such as ammonium nitrate and potassium nitrate, capable of manufacturing high-yield IEDs.

Faridabad Police Commissioner Vikas Arora confirmed the seizures and said the investigation remains active. "We are coordinating closely with central agencies to trace remaining linkages. More arrests are expected," he said.

Authorities described the operation as a "major counter-terror success." —*PTI*

Purkayastha's murder: HC upholds lifer for guard

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Over 13 years after lawyer Pallavi Purkayastha's murder shocked Mumbai, the Bombay High Court on Monday upheld the life sentence of security guard Sajjad Mugal Pathan, affirming the prosecution had proved his guilt beyond doubt.

The court rejected pleas by the Maharashtra government and Purkayastha's father seeking the death penalty, ruling the case did not fall under the "rarest of rare" category.

A bench of Justices AS Gadkari and Neela Gokhale said Pathan will remain in jail for the rest of his natural life without parole or furlough, citing his absconding during parole in 2016 before being re-arrested in 2023.

The judges found Pathan's motive — an attempt to physically violate the victim — to be "sufficiently established" and morally reprehensible.

Purkayastha, a lawyer with Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment, was murdered in her Wadala flat on 9 August 2012.

Police said Pathan, a building security guard, cut power to her apartment, stole a key, entered at night, and killed her when she resisted molestation.

The court upheld the credibility of Pathan's extra-judicial confession to a co-worker, ruling the evidence formed a complete chain proving his guilt beyond reasonable doubt. Pathan was first convicted and sentenced to life in 2015.

Officials said the case highlighted serious lapses in building security, emphasised the need for stricter checks on personnel with access to residents' homes, and demonstrated the importance of timely police vigilance. The judgment serves as a warning that breaches of trust and abuse of authority will face stringent legal consequences. The verdict has been widely welcomed by legal experts and activists, who praised the court for upholding justice after a long and arduous trial.

MILESTONE AGREEMENT

Saudi, India sign Hajj pact; quota set at 1.75L pilgrims for 2025

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, during an official visit to Saudi Arabia from 7 to 9 November, signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement in Jeddah, confirming India's Haj 2026 quota at 175,025.

He met Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah, with both sides reviewing preparations and agreeing to strengthen coordination, logistics, and pilgrim welfare.

The ministers discussed enhancing facilities, transport, accommodation, and healthcare for Indian pilgrims.

Rijiju later reviewed arrangements with officials from the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate in Jeddah, praising their efforts to ensure a smooth pilgrimage.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju with Saudi Arabia Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah in Saudi Arabia **PHOTO: PTI**

Terming the agreement "a significant step in deepening India–Saudi ties," Rijiju said it reflects both nations' commitment to facilitating a comfortable and well-organised Haj experience.

The aggrement marks a milestone in India–Saudi Arabia cooperation, reinforcing shared respect and collaboration in managing one of the world's largest annual pilgrimages. —*PTI*

G'gram teen shot after ignoring accused: Cops

GURUGRAM, 10 NOV

- The victim's family said the assailant bore a grudge stemming from a two-month-old altercation

A Class 11 student from Gurugram was shot by his classmate after allegedly ignoring repeated questions while using his mobile phone, police said on Monday. The 17-year-old victim, critically injured with a shattered neck bone, was attacked at the accused's Sector 48 home on Saturday.

Police have apprehended the accused and his friend, both minors, and sent them to a correction home in Faridabad. The boy allegedly used his father's licensed pistol to shoot the victim. The family of the injured student said the assailant bore a grudge stemming from a two-month-old altercation.

Haryana DGP O P Singh called the incident "extremely unfortunate" and urged parents and schools to teach children "people skills" to prevent violent behaviour. He directed police chiefs to alert and train arms license holders on weapon safety.

According to investigators, the accused told police he fired after the victim ignored his questions thrice. The injured boy remains in critical condition at a private hospital.

An FIR has been registered at Sadar police station. —*PTI*

TTD fires two workers for eating non-veg

TIRUPATI, 10 NOV

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), responsible for the Sri Venkateswara temple, has dismissed two outsourced employees for allegedly consuming non-vegetarian food near Alipiri. An official press release stated, "TTD has taken strict action against two outsourced employees, Ramaswamy and Sarasamma, for consuming non-vegetarian food near Alipiri." Following the incident, a complaint was filed at the Tirumala Two Town Police Station. A case has been registered under section 114 of the Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Endowments Act. —*PTI*

BARD FALLS SILENT AT 64

Ande Sri, poet who penned T'gana state anthem, dies

NEW DELHI, 14 OCT

Renowned poet and lyricist Ande Sri, the author of Telangana's iconic state song "Jaya Jaya He Telangana", passed away in Hyderabad on Monday. He was 64.

According to officials, Ande Sri, whose real name was Ande Yellaiah, was found lying unconscious at his residence in the morning.

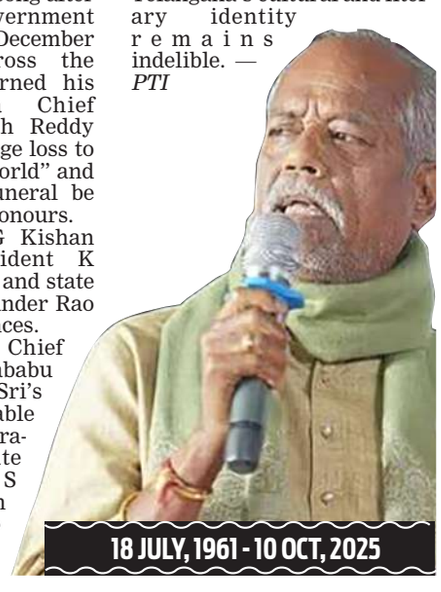
Family members rushed him to the state-run Gandhi Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. A heart attack is suspected to be the cause of death. The poet, known to be hypertensive, had reportedly experienced heavy sweating two days earlier.

Ande Sri rose to prominence during the Telangana statehood movement, with his emotionally charged songs becoming the anthem of the agitation. His "Jaya Jaya He Telangana" was officially adopted as the state song after the Congress government came to power in December 2023. Leaders across the Telugu states mourned his death. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy described it as a "huge loss to the state's literary world" and directed that his funeral be held with full state honours.

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao, and state BJP chief N Ramchander Rao also offered condolences.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu termed Ande Sri's passing an "irreparable loss" to Telugu literature, while state Congress chief Y S Sharmila called him "a people's poet who awakened society through his words."

Ande Sri's contribution to Telangana's cultural and literary identity remains indelible. —*PTI*



18 JULY, 1961 - 10 OCT, 2025

Shilpa, Kundra moves HC to quash cheating case

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Actress Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra have approached the Bombay High Court to quash a Rs 60 crore cheating case filed against them by the Mumbai police's economic offences wing. The couple has requested the court to stop the police from filing a chargesheet and to refrain from any coercive action while their petitions are heard. The complaint, lodged by Deepak Kothari, alleges they induced him to invest Rs 60 crore in their company, Best Deal TV Pvt Ltd, for personal gain. The couple claimed the FIR is based on "false and distorted facts," asserting the dispute is a civil matter linked to business losses stemming

DELHI'S AQI REMAINS 'VERY POOR'

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Delhi continued to choke under a toxic haze on Monday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) hitting 345, categorised as very poor, and several areas such as Bawana crossing 400, marked severe.

The worsening smog triggered protests near India Gate, where citizens, including children, held placards reading "Smog se Azadi!" and "Breathing is killing me."

Despite public anger, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) declined to impose tougher curbs under GRAP, citing a slight improvement.

Meanwhile, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Jairam Ramesh slammed the Delhi government's inaction, saying citizens demanding clean air were being "treated like criminals."

Gandhi asserted that clean air is a "fundamental right."

Police said detentions were precautionary, noting demonstrations occurred without permission outside designated sites like Jantar Mantar. —*Agencies*

An anti-smog gun sprays water droplets to curb air pollution as people gather to protest over the air quality, in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

China and US suspend port fees for their vessels

SEOUL, 10 NOV

China and the US have halted special port fees for vessels berthing in each other's ports following recent trade negotiations. China's Ministry of Transport announced a one-year suspension of these fees for ships owned or operated by US entities, effective immediately. Concurrently, China will suspend its investigation into the impact of the US Section 301 probe on its shipping and shipbuilding sectors. This aligns with agreements made during China-US trade talks in Kuala Lumpur. The White House confirmed its own suspension of port fees on 1 November. Maersk stated, "This gives our customers greater visibility, certainty and stability in their supply chains." . *—PTI*

France's former president Sarkozy released from jail

JAKARTA, 10 NOV

Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was released from prison and placed under judicial supervision, a Paris appeals court ruled on Monday, just weeks after starting a five-year sentence over illicit campaign financing tied to Libya. Banned from leaving France and from contacting key witnesses, Sarkozy, 70, stated during a video hearing, "I had never imagined I would experience prison at 70... It's hard, very hard." He maintains his innocence regarding alleged financial ties with Libya. Sarkozy is awaiting an appeal hearing and faces further legal proceedings, including a ruling over his failed 2012 re-election campaign financing on 26 November. *—PTI*

'Sudan's RSF is burning bodies to hide genocide'

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

A Sudanese medical organisation accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of engaging in a "desperate attempt" to conceal evidence of mass killings in Darfur by burning bodies or burying them in mass graves. The Sudan Doctors Network claimed paramilitaries were collecting hundreds of bodies from the streets of el-Fasher, in Sudan's western Darfur region, following their violent takeover of the city on 26 October. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) estimates that 82,000 of el-Fasher's total population of 260,000 fled after the RSF seized the last Sudanese military stronghold. Sudan's two-year civil war has plunged the nation into the world's largest humanitarian crisis. *—Agencies*

5 killed as Russian chopper breaks into two

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

At least five people, including four senior executives of a Russian military factory, have been killed in a helicopter crash in the Republic of Dagestan. A Ka-226 helicopter was carrying employees of the EU-sanctioned Kizlyar Electromechanical Plant in Dagestan when it crashed in a village near the Caspian Sea. The viral video of the crash that occurred on 7 November, showed the chopper trying to land on a beach when its tail hits a rock, causing the rotor at the back to break off. The helicopter lost its balance with its tail hanging from its body. The helicopter also struck an unoccupied house near Achi-Su village, which was destroyed in the resulting fire. Nexta, an Eastern European news channel reported that the crash was caused by a "technical malfunction." *—Agencies*

US govt shutdown likely to end soon

In a test vote, Senate vote 60-40 to move toward passing compromise bill to fund govt

WASHINGTON, 10 NOV

The Senate took the first step to end the government shutdown on Sunday after a group of moderate Democrats agreed to proceed without a guaranteed extension of health care subsidies, angering many in their caucus who say Americans want them to continue the fight.

In a test vote that is the first in a series of required procedural manoeuvres, the Senate voted 60-40 to move toward passing compromise legislation to fund the government and hold a later vote on extending Affordable Care Act tax credits that expire 1 January.

Final passage could be several days away if Democrats object and delay the process.

The agreement does not guarantee the Affordable Care Act subsidies will be extended, as Democrats have demanded for almost six weeks. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York voted against moving ahead with the package, along with all but eight of his Democratic colleagues.

A group of three former governors — New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — broke the six-week stalemate on Sunday when they agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of government funding until late January in exchange for a mid-December vote on extending the health care tax credits. Democrats had voted 14 times not to reopen the government.

Final passage could be several days away if Democrats object and delay the process. **PHOTO: PTI**

- Meanwhile, the consequences of the shutdown have been compounding. US airlines cancelled more than 2,000 flights on Sunday for the first time since the shutdown began, and there were more than 7,000 flight delays.

The agreement also includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on 1 October and would ensure that federal workers receive back pay.

Meanwhile, the consequences of the shutdown have been compounding. US airlines cancelled more than 2,000 flights on Sunday for the first time since the shutdown began, and there were more than 7,000 flight delays.

At the same time, food aid was delayed for tens of millions of people as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits were caught up in legal battles related to the shutdown. *—PTI*

In a 1st, Trump to hosts Syria's al-Sharaa at WH

WASHINGTON, 10 NOV

President Donald Trump is hosting Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa at the White House on Monday, welcoming the once-pariah state into a US-led global coalition to fight the Islamic State group.

It's the first visit to the White House by a Syrian head of state since the Middle Eastern country gained independence from France in 1946, and comes after the US lifted sanctions imposed on Syria.

Trump and al-Sharaa — who once had ties to al-Qaida and had a USD 10 million US bounty on his head — first met in May in Saudi Arabia. At the time, Trump described al-Sharaa as a "young, attractive guy. Tough guy. Strong past, very strong past. Fighter." It was the first official encounter between the US and Syria since 2000, when former president Bill Clinton met with Hafez Assad, the father of Bashar Assad.

Before al-Sharaa's arrival in the US, the United Nations Security Council voted to lift sanctions on the Syrian President, a move pushed by Washington.

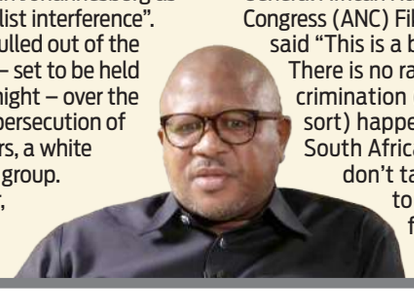
Al-Sharaa seeks permanent repeal of sanctions, such as the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, that punished Syria for human rights abuses under Bashar al-Assad's government, arguing it could no longer be justified. Another key issue expected to be discussed is security and the Islamic State (IS). *—Agencies*

EACH US CITIZEN WILL GET $2,000 DIVIDENDS FROM TARIFFS: TRUMP

Trump said that every person in the US will get USD 2,000 dividends from his sweeping tariff policy. His comments come as the Supreme Court expressed doubts about the legality of his trade policies. "People that are against Tariffs are FOOLS!" Trump fumed on Truth Social. "We are now the Richest, Most Respected Country In the World, With Almost No Inflation, and A Record Stock Market Price... We are taking in Trillions of Dollars and will soon begin paying down our ENORMOUS DEBT, $37 Trillion."

US BOYCOTTING G20 IS IMPERIALIST, SAYS S AFRICA

South Africa slammed Trump's decision to boycott the G20 Summit in Johannesburg as "imperialist interference". Trump pulled out of the summit – set to be held in a fortnight – over the alleged persecution of Afrikaners, a white minority group. However, Trump hasn't provided any evidence of his claims. Secretary-General African National Congress (ANC) Fikile Mbalula said "This is a blatant lie. There is no racial discrimination (of this sort) happening in South Africa.... We don't take kindly to imperialist flirtations,"



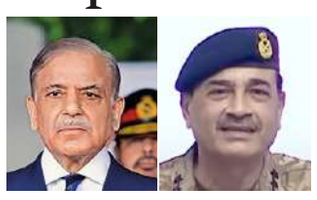
TRUMP PARDONS RUDY GIULIANI, OTHERS OVER 2020 RIOTS

Has pardoned his former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, his former chief of staff Mark Meadows and others accused of backing the Republicans' efforts to overturn the 2020 election. Ed Martin, the government's pardon attorney, posted on social media a signed proclamation of the "full, complete, and unconditional" pardon, which also names Conservative attorneys Sidney Powell and John Eastman. The proclamation explicitly says the pardon does not apply to Trump.

CHIEF FOR LIFE

Pak Senate grants Munir more power

ISLAMABAD, 10 NOV



Pakistan's Senate, the upper house of parliament, on Monday gave a nod to the controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment to create a new post of Chief of Defence Forces and set up a constitutional court.

The bill, which had stirred controversy for weeks as it grants Field Marshal Asim Munir further powers, was presented in the Senate by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, while Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani presided over the proceedings.

Under the amendment bill, the President will appoint the Army Chief and the Chief of Defence Force on the advice of the Prime Minister.

It also proposes that the post of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee will expire on 27 November, 2025.

The Chief of Army Staff (Munir), who will now also be the Chief of Defence Forces, will appoint the head of the National Strategic Command in consultation with the Prime Minister, and the head of the National Strategic Command will be from the Pakistan Army.

The government will be able to promote individuals from the armed forces to the ranks of Field Marshal, Marshal of the Air Force and Admiral of the Fleet.

Most controversially, these are positions for life. Munir holds several of these positions.

As voting began, Opposition members led by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party of Imran Khan staged a protest, chanting slogans against the government and its coalition partners. The lawmakers tore up copies of the bill. Most opposition members then staged a walkout. After they left the house, the bill was passed.

20 KILLED ON AFGHAN BORDER

Pakistani security forces killed 20 Pakistani Taliban insurgents in raids on hideouts in the northwest region bordering Afghanistan, the military said Monday, as tensions between the two countries escalated. *—Agencies*

Thailand halts Cambodia truce deal after landmines injures troops

BANGKOK, 10 NOV

The Royal Thai Army said a sergeant had lost his right foot after stepping on a land mine **PHOTO: PTI**

Thailand will halt all actions it agreed to under a ceasefire deal with Cambodia, Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on Monday, after a landmine explosion in the volatile border area injured two Thai soldiers.

Thailand and Cambodia signed a truce agreement at a summit in Malaysia last month, after territorial disputes between the two Southeast Asian neighbours led to a five-day clashes in late July that killed dozens.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said Monday's incident shows that "the hostility towards our national security has not decreased as we thought it would," adding that all actions to be carried out under the truce agreement will be halted until Thailand's demands are met.

The Royal Thai Army said a sergeant had lost his right foot after stepping on a land mine while on patrol along the border in Sisaket province, while another soldier suffered a tightness in his chest from the impact of the blast. Thai Defence Minister Natthaphon Narkphanit said the army is still investigating whether the mine was old or was newly laid. He added that Thailand will postpone the release of the captured Cambodian soldiers, initially scheduled for later this week. *—PTI*

4 DEAD AS TYPHOON FUNG-WONG SMASHES PHILIPPINES

MANILA, 10 NOV

Typhoon Fung-wong has exited the northwestern Philippines, having unleashed devastating floods and landslides, resulting in at least four fatalities and displacing over 1.4 million individuals. As it moved northwest towards Taiwan, the storm initially made landfall in northeastern Aurora province with sustained winds reaching 185 kph (115 mph).

The typhoon exacerbated the already dire situation following Typhoon Kalmaegi, which had claimed at least 224 lives. "While the typhoon has passed, its rains still pose a danger in certain areas," warned Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV of the Office of Civil Defence. "We'll undertake rescue, relief and disaster-response operations today."

The victims included one person who drowned in Catanduanes and two children killed in a landslide in Nueva Vizcaya. *—PTI*

BBC in crisis as top officials quit over Trump speech edit

LONDON, 10 NOV

The BBC plunged into turmoil after Director-General Tim Davie and news chief Deborah Turness resigned on Monday amid outrage over the editing of a speech by former US President Donald Trump.

The controversy erupted after the broadcaster's 'Panorama' programme stitched together two parts of Trump's 6 January, 2021, address, omitting his call for a peaceful protest. Trump accused the BBC of trying to "step on the scales of a Presidential Election."

In his resignation letter, Davie said he took "ultimate responsibility" for the errors, while Turness said the row was "causing damage" to the BBC. Chairman Samir Shah is expected to issue an apology. The episode has sparked broader scrutiny of the BBC's impartiality, with critics citing alleged bias in its coverage of Trump, transgender issues, and Israel. *—PTI*

'RICH COUNTRIES UNINTERESTED'

COP30 begins in Brazil with no top leaders

BELEM, 10 NOV

UN climate negotiations were expected to begin on Monday at a meeting on the edge of the Brazilian Amazon, with leaders pushing for urgency, cooperation and acceleration. However, many of the world's top leaders aren't attending.

Andre Correa do Lago, President of this year's conference, known as COP30, emphasised that negotiators engage in "mutirao," a Brazilian word derived from an Indigenous word that refers to a group uniting to work on a shared task.

"Either we decide to change by choice, together, or we will be imposed change by tragedy," Lago wrote in his letter to negotiators on Sunday.

Complicating the calls for togetherness is the US. The Trump administration did not send high-level negotiators to the talks and is withdrawing for the second time from the 10-year-old Paris Agreement, which is being celebrated as a partial achievement in Belem. During the UNGA in New York earlier this year, President Donald Trump also called climate change a con job.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres listens to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's speech at the COP30 UN Climate Summit in Belem, Brazil **PHOTO: PTI**

Trump also Brazil for reportedly cutting 1,00,000 trees to build a "four-lane" highway to the summit.

Correa do Lago also told reporters that rich countries have lost their enthusiasm for the combating climate change.

"Somehow the reduction in enthusiasm of the global north is showing that the global south is moving," Corrêa do Lago said.

- Ministers and high-ranking officials from 194 countries will seek to forge plans at Cop30 to stay within, or as close as possible to, the limit of 1.5C heating set out in the Paris agreement.

Ministers and high-ranking officials from 194 countries will seek to forge plans at Cop30 to stay within, or as close as possible to the limit of 1.5C heating set out in the Paris agreement.

But with the US, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin not showing up, it remains to be seen if the meeting has any relevance at all. *—Agencies*

Salman Rushdie gets Dayton Peace Prize

DAYTON, 9 NOV

Salman Rushdie was among the honourees at the Dayton Literary Peace Prize event in Ohio, receiving a lifetime achievement award after publishing his first work of fiction since being stabbed on a New York lecture stage three years ago.

The prizes honour both literary merit and the writers' promotion of peace through their work, with separate awards annually for fiction, nonfiction and lifetime achievement.

Rushdie, 78, is best known for his novel, 'The Satanic Verses', which prompted allegations of blasphemy and a call from Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for the Indian-born writer's death, driving him into hiding.

He was blinded in one eye from the 2022 attack before a stunned audience, and his assailant was later sentenced to 25 years in prison.

His attacker, Hadi Matar, a US citizen, attempted to carry out the decades-old edict calling for Rushdie's death.

Salman Rushdie **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

- Rushdie published an acclaimed memoir about the attack, 'Knife,' in 2024.

Rushdie published an acclaimed memoir about the attack, 'Knife,' in 2024, a finalist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction. His most recent work, his 23rd, is 'The Eleventh Hour,' which includes three novellas and two short stories. *—PTI*

PHOTO:PTI

Rupee falls by 6P, closes at 88.71 against USD

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

The rupee depreciated 6 paise to settle at 88.71 (provisional) against the US dollar in a muted session on Monday, weighed down by elevated crude oil prices. However, positive domestic equity markets and a soft US dollar cushioned the rupee's downside, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.64 against the American currency, and touched an intraday high of 88.64 and a low of 88.71 against the greenback during the day. The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 88.71 (provisional), lower by 6 paise from its previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.04 per cent to 99.55. *—PTI*

Indian exporters to visit Russia for trade exhibition

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Indian exporters from the engineering sector will participate in the four-day exhibition in Moscow this week with an aim to boost the country's outbound shipments amid steep tariffs imposed by the US on domestic goods. The delegation is led by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President SC Ralhan. Ralhan said that the MITEX 2025 will provide a platform for domestic exporters to showcase their quality goods to the global buyers. India's participation at MITEX aims to deepen commercial ties and promote Indian manufacturing excellence in the Russian market, thereby further helping in boosting bilateral trade between both nations, Ralhan said. *—PTI*

PHOTO:PTI

JSW Steel output grows 9% to 25LT in October

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

JSW Steel on Monday posted a 9 per cent year on year rise in consolidated output in October to 24.95 lakh tonnes, led by India operations. It had produced 22.81 lakh tonnes (LT) steel in October 2024, the company said in an exchange filing. In India, the company produced 24.12 LT in October, up 10 per cent y-o-y from 21.99 LT it had produced in the same month last year. The capacity utilisation of Indian operations was at 83 per cent, lower due to shutdown of blast furnace 3 at Vijayanagar for upgradation of capacity to 4.5 MTPA from 3.0 MTPA. It will resume production in February, 2026. *—PTI*

Akasa Air eyes quicker deliveries of Boeing

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Akasa Air is preparing to commence international flights from Delhi and anticipates quicker deliveries of Boeing aircraft, according to a senior official. Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer Praveen Iyer announced, "We will soon have international departures from Delhi," as the airline currently operates 24 daily departures from the capital. The airline, which began operations in August 2022 and now boasts a fleet of 30 planes serving 24 domestic and six international destinations, is looking to expand routes to Singapore, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Tashkent. With a firm order for 226 Boeing 737 MAX planes, Iyer stated, "Boeing increasing production means we expect aircraft to come faster." *—PTI*

HPCL, MRPL buy 5M barrels of US, Mideast oil

The crude oil prices went up by 0.98% to $60.20 per barrel

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Crude oil prices extended gains for a second consecutive session

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Two Indian refiners, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) have bought 5 million barrels of crude oil from spot markets amid the ongoing search for an alternative for Russian crude, said sources.

According to sources, for January, HPCL purchased 2 million barrels each of US West Texas Intermediate crude and Abu Dhabi's Murban crude. While MRPL has purchased 1 million barrels of Basra Medium crude.

As of now the price and details of the seller are unknown, said sources.

Additionally, Oil prices surged on Monday as the US government shutdown came to an end, though experts maintained that the overall outlook for crude remains bearish.

Crude oil prices extended gains for a second consecutive session. The crude oil prices rose by 0.98 per cent to USD 60.20 per barrel on Monday. Market participants viewed this development as a sign of easing policy uncertainty.

The upward momentum was supported by optimism that the resolution of the government shutdown would help restore confidence in the US economy.

US senators on Sunday reached a bipartisan deal to reopen the government after a record 40-day shutdown. The agreement, backed by at least eight Senate Democrats, would fund the government through January 30 and include a vote on extending Affordable Care Act subsidies in December.

The Senate is set to vote on the proposal 7:30 am, paving the way for the government to resume normal operations.

However, despite the short-term recovery, experts cautioned that the broader oil market remains bearish.

According to experts, centrist Senate Democrats have backed a deal to reopen the government and fund several departments through the next fiscal year, which the markets have interpreted as a sign of easing policy uncertainty. *—Agencies*

DOWN BY 3%

Lenskart makes weak mkt debut

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Shares of eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions ended almost flat in its debut trade on Monday, after listing with a discount of about 3 per cent against the issue price.

The stock was listed at Rs 390 on BSE, down by 2.98 per cent from the issue price.

In the early trade, it tanked 11.52 per cent to touch an intraday low of Rs 355.70.

However, the scrip soon recovered all losses and climbed 2.93 per cent to Rs 413.80. Shares of the firm finally ended at Rs 403.30 apiece, marginally up by 0.32 per cent.

On the NSE, shares of the firm started trading at Rs 395 apiece, a discount of 1.74 per cent.

The stock finally ended 0.63 per cent up at Rs 404.55.

At the end of the trading session, the company's market capitalisation stood at Rs 70,184.17 crore on the NSE.

In volume terms, 13.15 crore equity shares were traded on the NSE and 93.57 lakh shares changed hands on the BSE.

PINE LABS IPO GETS 54% SUBSCRIPTION

The IPO of Pine Labs received 54 per cent subscription on the second day of the initial share sale on Monday.

The IPO received bids for 5,31,12,240 shares against 9,78,93,739 shares on offer, according to NSE data.

The portion for retail individual investors' part got subscribed 87 per cent, and the quota for qualified institutional buyers received 64 per cent subscription.

The category for non-institutional investors got subscribed to 12 per cent.

The company's Rs 3,900 crore IPO will conclude on 11 November. Pine Labs will make its stock market debut on 14 November. *—PTI*

Mkts climb as Sensex, Nifty snap 3-day fall

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Monday after three straight days of losses following buying in IT and financial shares and a rally in global peers after a breakthrough in the US government shutdown.

The 30-share BSE Sensex benchmark climbed 319.07 points, or 0.38 per cent, to close at 83,535.35.

In the intraday session, the index rallied 538.21 points, or 0.64 per cent, to hit a high of 83,754.49.

The NSE Nifty advanced 82.05 points, or 0.32 per cent, to settle at 25,574.35.

During the day, it climbed 161.15 points or 0.63 per cent to hit an intraday high of 25,653.45.

Among the Sensex firms, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Tata Consultancy Services, Bharti Airtel, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries and Larsen & Toubro were the gainers.

Trent Ltd, Eternal, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever and NTPC were the laggards.

The BSE midcap gauge went up by 0.62 per cent, while smallcap ended 0.28 per cent lower.

Focussed IT climbed 1.66 per cent, followed by information technology by 1.57 per cent, Teck by 1.43 per cent, Capital Goods by 1.24 per cent, Industrials by 0.66 per cent, Consumer Durables 0.62 per cent, Metal by 0.51 per cent and Energy by 0.36 per cent.

A total of 2,372 stocks declined while 1,962 advanced and 179 remained unchanged on the BSE. *—PTI*

Nykaa Q2 profit rises 243%, WeWork posts loss of Rs 6.4 crore

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Shares of FSN E-Commerce, the parent company of Nykaa, on Monday jumped 6 per cent after the fashion and beauty retailer reported a manifold growth in consolidated net profit to Rs 34.4 crore in the September quarter.

The scrip of the company climbed 5.98 per cent to close at Rs 260.65 apiece on the BSE.

On the NSE, the stock of Mumbai-based FSN E-Commerce advanced 5.75 per cent to finish at Rs 260 per piece.

WEWORK INDIA

In contrast, WeWork India Management Ltd reported a significant drop in consolidated net profit to Rs 6.4 crore for the September quarter, down from Rs 203.74 crore in the previous year due to base effects.

Nevertheless, total income rose to Rs 585.54 crore. CEO Karan Virwani stated, "Our Q2 results signify a defining moment in WeWork India's journey, demonstrating that flexibility and profitability can coexist at scale."

Nykaa reported a manifold growth in consolidated net profit to Rs 34.4 crore in the September quarter

PHOTO: ANI

VODAFONE IDEA

Debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Monday said its consolidated net loss year-on-year narrowed to Rs 5,524 crore in the second quarter ended September 2025.

The company had posted a net loss of Rs 7,175.9 crore in the year-ago period, according to the firm's regulatory filing.

AIRTEL

Additionally, Airtel Payments Bank has posted a profit of Rs 11.8 crore for the second quarter ended 30 September, 2025, marginally higher than a year ago, and said its quarterly revenue breached the Rs 800 crore mark for the first time. *—PTI*

Paytm unveils new app with 'clean interface'

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Paytm (One 97 Communications Ltd), India's full-stack merchant payments leader serving MSMEs and enterprises, has launched a fully redesigned version of its flagship app, integrating artificial intelligence-driven features to streamline and personalise everyday transactions for its users.

The update introduces a cleaner user interface alongside over 15 new features that seek to make payments faster and smarter for customers across the country and abroad.

The launch of "Gold Coins," a first-of-its-kind initiative, rewards users with digital gold on every payment, adding a valuable savings dimension to regular transactions.

Features such as the reimagined balance history with AI tags help users quickly gauge their total balance across UPI-linked bank accounts. *—PTI*

Gold rallies by Rs 1,300 to Rs 1.25 lakh per 10g

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Gold prices rallied by Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,25,900 per 10g in the national capital on Monday amid strong global cues and a weak dollar, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity climbed by Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,25,300 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes) against Rs 1,24,000 per 10g on Friday. In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 1,24,600 per 10g in the previous market session.

In addition, silver prices bounced by Rs 2,460 to Rs 1,55,760 per kilogram. The white metal had finished at Rs 1,53,300 per kg on Friday, as per the association. Spot gold increased by $83.12, or 2.08 per cent, to $4,082.84 per ounce while spot silver was trading 3.30 per cent higher at USD 49.93 per ounce. *—PTI*

Novo Nordisk, Emcure to make weight loss drug

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

PHOTO: PTI

Novo Nordisk India has entered into a partnership with Emcure Pharma to launch Poviztra, a semaglutide injection (2.4 mg), marking the second brand of Wegovy in India.

This medication is aimed at chronic weight management and reducing the risk of major cardiovascular events for individuals with obesity or overweight, in conjunction with a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity.

The collaboration promises to enhance distribution and marketing efforts for semaglutide across India, particularly in areas not currently reached by Novo Nordisk. Jay Thyagarajan, Senior Vice President for Region APAC at Novo Nordisk, emphasised the importance of addressing the obesity crisis in India: "We are happy to join hands with Emcure to broaden access to high-quality, safe, and effective obesity treatment."

Emcure Pharma will be the first Indian company with exclusive rights to distribute and commercialise Poviztra. CEO Satish Mehta expressed confidence in making semaglutide available to those in need. *—PTI*

AgriNext to bring Kerala ryots under startups

T'PURAM 10 NOV

The Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) is launching a new project called AgriNext, aimed at bringing the state's farming community into the startup ecosystem.

According to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office, the initiative will benefit farmers, startups, and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

AgriNext forms part of the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation Project (KERA) --a major programme led by the Department of Agriculture with World Bank support.

It aims to promote growth in the state's farm sector and encourage climate-resilient farming practices.

Startups will be able to develop solutions, while research institutions, agricultural universities, and other organisations will also have the opportunity to collaborate with the AgriNext project.

Only startups with innovative ideas or technologies to solve farming-related issues can apply, the government said.

Applications can be submitted through the KSUM online portal, and the selected startups will be incubated with support from the KSUM Project Implementation Unit.

Each startup will receive Rs 25 lakh. An agri-tech incubation facility will also be set up. *—PTI*

LATER SAYS 'WAS AN ACCIDENT'

HR sends 'termination notice' to entire office

BENGALURU, 10 NOV

Within minutes, chaos broke out across internal communication channels

PHOTO: FREEPIK

The internet is in splits, after an employee revealed that their company's HR department accidentally sent a "termination notice" to every staff member, including the CEO.

The incident came to light after a Reddit user posted about it on the platform's popular thread r/Wellthatsucks.

The employee revealed that the HR team was testing a new offboarding automation tool designed to send exit emails to employees that are leaving the company.

However, someone forgot to switch it from "test mode" to "live mode", with around 300 employees, including the company's management, receiving an email that began with: "Your last working day is effective immediately."

Within minutes, chaos broke out across internal communication channels.

The IT department stepped in to control the panic, sending out the message: "NO ONE IS FIRED. PLEASE DO NOT TURN IN YOUR BADGES."

The viral post garnered over 40,000 upvotes and hundreds of amused comments.

Many users shared their own experiences with workplace blunders, while the HR team's dilemma humoured many.

A user wrote, "That one guy who just thumbs it up was like, "damn well ok, guess I'm fired."

- The employee revealed that the HR team was testing a new offboarding automation tool designed to send exit emails to employees that are leaving the company.

Another wrote: "Any company that needs a mass termination tool is doomed to fail."

"Yeah-- this is incredibly destabilising. They're testing out software to automate layoffs," echoed the third.

"Nobody is fired, I repeat, nobody is fired. Except you, Bob, come see me in my office," yet another joked. *—PTI*

Goldman Sachs upgrades India to 'overweight'

MUMBAI, 10 NOV

American brokerage Goldman Sachs (GS) on Monday upgraded its views on Indian equities to "overweight" after a subpar show in 2025 and estimated more interest in stock buying going forward.

The higher buying in Indian equities will see the NSE's 50-share Nifty benchmark rise to 29,000 points, up 14 per cent by the end of 2026, it said.

The brokerage said equities have been up by a "modest" 3 per cent in 2025 in what has otherwise been one of the strongest years for emerging markets, which have seen over 30 per cent rally.

"This significant underperformance - the largest in the past two decades was triggered by a mix of peak starting valuations and cyclical growth and profit slowdown expectations," Goldman Sachs said.

The brokerage said it had downgraded its views on India in October last year because of these factors and added that it is reversing its stance to be "overweight" on India now.

"As the year progressed and earnings cuts materialised, tariff headwinds soured sentiment further and led to large foreign de-risking. We now see a case for Indian equities to perform better over the coming year," it added.

The growth supportive policies, including RBI's rate cuts, improved liquidity and bank deregulation, earnings revivals and significant under-positioning in the market which has seen an USD 30 billion selloff by foreign investors were cited as the reason for the upgrade.

The brokerage said it favours stocks in the financial, consumer, oil marketing companies and defence to be better bets in the next year. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Rain washes out 4th T20 match between NZ & WI

NELSON, 10 NOV

Rain disrupted the fourth Twenty20 cricket international between New Zealand and the West Indies, resulting in a washout at Saxton Oval and leaving New Zealand with a 2-1 lead in the series. After winning the first match by seven runs and the second by three, New Zealand lost the opportunity to extend their lead when rain arrived after just 6.3 overs, with the West Indies at 38-1. The final match of the series is scheduled to take place at University Oval, Dunedin, on Thursday, giving both teams a chance to determine the series outcome despite the rain interruption in the latest fixture. *—PTI*

Pakistan hockey coach will not travel to Dhaka

KARACHI, 10 NOV

Pakistan men's hockey head coach Tahir Zaman has opted not to travel to Dhaka for an upcoming three-match series, citing interference in selection matters by the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). Zaman disapproved of the last-minute addition of players Rana Wahid and Hammad Anjum, who joined the training camp late due to foreign league commitments. PHF secretary Rana Mujahid confirmed Zaman's absence, stating efforts will be made to resolve the issue. He noted that ten players were late to the camp and that penalties were agreed upon. Zaman's position is that clarity around head coach authority is essential for team improvement. Meanwhile, team manager Mohammad Usman will assume coaching responsibilities in Bangladesh. *—PTI*

3-yr-ban for athletes evading doping test

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Track and field's anti-doping watchdog Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) on Monday revisited the three-year doping ban case of Indian long-distance runner Varsha Tekam to drive home the point that once an athlete is notified to take a doping test, he or she is required to comply. On 5 June, Varsha, who had finished third in the Pune Half Marathon last year, was handed a three-year suspension for evading a dope test by the AIU. She was provisionally suspended on 26 May. The AIU said evading a test was a serious violation and Varsha was found to have violated Rule 2.3 relating to "evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection by an athlete". *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Ravindra Shetty appointed WSKL's Technical Director

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The World Super Kabaddi League (WSKL) has appointed international coach Ravindra Shetty as its Technical Director ahead of the league's inaugural edition slated for early next year. Shetty will oversee the league's technical structure, referee and coach development, and innovations in game formats. "I'm excited to contribute to building a technically strong, competitive, and inclusive league that showcases kabaddi's true potential to the world," he stated. With a long coaching career that includes leading India's junior team and coaching Thailand's national team, Shetty also developed new kabaddi formats. The league will take place in Dubai in 2026.*—PTI*

Delhi's iconic JNL Stadium may be turned into Sports City

All offices inside the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium will be relocated as and when the project will be implemented **PHOTO: PTI**

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The iconic Jawaharal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi will be "dismantled" to create a Sports City that will cater to all major disciplines and include lodging facility for athletes, a Sports Ministry source said on Monday.

The plan is merely a proposal and the time-line and the estimated cost has not yet been worked out.

"The stadium will be dismantled. All offices inside the stadium, including the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) and the Income Tax department will be relocated as and when the project takes off," the ministry source said. "Currently the over 100 acres of land that it occupies is not being used to its optimal level."

- The stadium also houses the headquarters of the Sports Authority of India, which owns the venue, and the government's flagship Khelo India project office.

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"It is an idea at this stage but let's see how the feasibility study works out. But the ministry is very serious about going ahead with it," the source said.

A Sports City project would require synergy between multiple ministries, including the Urban Development Ministry, and departments. Given the long-drawn process, an immediate start to it is unlikely.

Sports cities in Qatar and Australia are being assessed to finalise the modalities. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was in Doha recently and reportedly visited the Sports City there.

Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Complex, spread over 250 acres, was built at a cost of Rs 4,600 crore. *—PTI*

Gujarat, U'khand register outright wins in Ranji

Mumbai thumps Himachal as Mayank fights for Karnataka

NADIAD/MUMBAI, 10 NOV

Vishal Jayswal's all-round show helped Gujarat beat Services by six wickets on the penultimate day of a Ranji Trophy Group C match in Nadiad on Monday.

After his 2/70 in the first innings, left-arm spinner Jayswal picked up match-winning 6/59 for Gujarat while he was complemented well by another leggie Siddharth Deasi (4/44) as the duo bowled the visitors out for 125 in 37.3 overs. Gujarat easily chased down a paltry target of 118, gaining six points.

Musheer Khan celebrates his century during the first day of the Ranji Trophy at Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy in Mumbai **PHOTO: PTI**

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UTTARAKHAND BEATS HARYANA

In Rohtak, Uttarakhand handsomely defeated hosts Haryana by an innings and 28 runs to pocket full six points. It didn't take Uttarakhand much time to wrap up Haryana's second innings, as after following on, the hosts were bundled out for 148.

Resuming at the overnight score of 105 for 6 in their second essay, Haryana failed to produce a fight in front of left-arm orthodox bowler Jagadeesha Suchith, who returned with match-winning spells of 5/27 and 6/56 to pick up an impressive 11-wicket haul in the match.

BENGAL ON THE VERGE OF BIG WIN

In Surat, Railways' batting woes continued as after a dismal first innings effort of 222 in reply to Bengal's 444, they were in a spot of bother 90 for 5 in their second essay after following on, still needing 162 runs to avoid innings defeat.

MUMBAI THUMP HIMACHAL

Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani returned a five-wicket haul as a dominant Mumbai crushed Himachal Pradesh by an innings and 120 runs to notch up an outright win on the third day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D contest.

After putting on board 446 in the first innings, Mumbai ran through a frail Himachal Pradesh batting line-up twice in as many days on a dusty BKC Ground track to record a comprehensive victory, their second of the season.

KARNATAKA TRY TO PUSH LEAD

Karnataka stood at 144 for 5 after 49.5 overs in Pune against Maharashtra, with Mayank Agarwal batting at a 64*. Maharashtra were bowled out for 300. *—PTI*

FIDE WORLD CUP

Arjun, Praggna, Harikrishna eye victory in Round 4

PANJIM, 10 NOV

India's leading Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggna nandhaa and P Harikrishna will look to continue their impressive run when the fourth round of the FIDE World Cup gets underway in Goa after the first rest day.

Arjun, the country's highest-rated player, will start as the favourite against veteran Hungarian Peter Leko, while Praggnanandhaa faces the inventive Daniil Dubov, who is playing under the FIDE flag. Harikrishna, the most experienced of the trio, takes on Sweden's Nils Grandelius as he aims to stay firmly in contention.

Leko, a formidable force about 20 years back, is showing signs of his prime but may not find things easy against Arjun, who likes to go for extreme complexities.

The 46-year-old defeated Bobby Cheng of Australia and Kiriil Alekseenko of Austria without any tiebreak games which speaks volumes about his quality of play.

Incidentally, Leko is a semi-retired player and his protégé Vincent Keymer of Germany is also in the fourth round, making it a rare case of 'Guru and Shisya' going deep in a knockout competition.

Arjun won both his matches without any tiebreak. The Indian has won three out of his four games thus far under the classical time control and has shown the exit door to Martin Petrov of Bulgaria and Shamsiddin Vokhidov of Uzbekistan in the process.

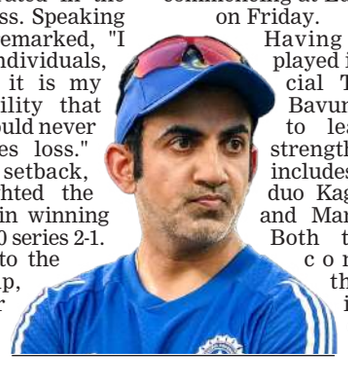
Crowd favourite Praggnanadhaa, meanwhile, is set to meet Dubov, known for his work as a theoretician.

The Russian is also a dangerous opponent in the faster time control. *—PTI*

'Can praise performance, but can't celebrate loss'

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir has expressed disappointment over the ODI series defeat to Australia, stating that "commendable" individual performances should "never" be celebrated in the face of a series loss. Speaking to 'bcci.tv', he remarked, "I can appreciate individuals, but as a coach, it is my moral responsibility that we as a nation should never celebrate a series loss." Despite the setback, Gambhir highlighted the team's resilience in winning the subsequent T20 series 2-1.



Looking ahead to the T20 World Cup, scheduled for February-March 2024, Gambhir admitted, "We still aren't where we want to be... but we have three months to be where we want to be."

Meanwhile, South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma joined his squad in Kolkata ahead of the first Test against India, commencing at Eden Gardens on Friday.

Having recently played in an unofficial Test series, Bavuma is ready to lead a full-strength side that includes the pace duo Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen. Both teams will commence their training sessions on Tuesday. *—PTI*

Kaur & co to get 1st oversees fitness coach

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

The World Cup winning Indian women's cricket team led by Harmanpreet Kaur will get its first foreign strength and conditioning (S&C) coach.

The BCCI has already made multiple recruitments in the S&C department at the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru.

Bangladesh men's S&C coach Nathan Kiely is in talks with the Indian board and may join the COE.

India's current S&C coach is AI Harrsha has done a splendid job culminating with the World Cup title. However, the BCCB may have other assignments for him.

Kiely also worked as assistant coach with New South Wales first class side.

Normally the S&C coaches who have been employed with the COE take turns to do assignments with various national teams (men and women) along with pathways and age-group coaches.

Till date, women's S&C coaches have been those attached with COE.

Kiely may be the first oversees coach.

The Indian men's S&C coach is Adrian Le Roux, who is in the middle of his second stint.

Meanwhile, the COE also roped in two new in-house S&C coaches Pratyush Agrawal and Amit Vengurlekar, who pipped some of the seasoned state team support staff to get the job. Agrawal was an assistant S&C coach with Delhi Capitals while Vengurlekar had the same designation with Lucknow Super Giants. *—PTI*

MANU, ISHA FALTER IN 10M PISTOL FINAL

CAIRO, 10 NOV

India's top pistol shooters Manu Bhaker and Esha Singh missed out on medals in the women's 10m air pistol final on Monday at the ISSF World Championships

Manu, a double Olympic medallist, slipped from the top spot after shooting 8.8 on her 14th attempt to finish seventh with 139.5.

Esha, a multiple Asian Games medallist, also faltered with an 8.4 on the same shot to place sixth.

China's Yao Qianxun claimed gold with 243.0, followed by Hong Kong-China's Ho Ching Shing (241.2) and China's Wei Qian (221.4).

India secured a team silver as Esha (583), Manu (580) and world No.1 Suruchi Inder Singh (577) totalled 1740 points.

India now stands fifth in the medals table of the world championship with its players winning one gold, three silver and two bronze. *—PTI*

Manchester drub Liverpool 3-0

MANCHESTER, 10 NOV

In his 1,000th game as manager, Pep Guardiola steered Manchester City to a commanding 3-0 victory over Liverpool, marking win No. 716 in a career filled with success. "Thank you to the players and staff for giving me that incredible present against the most important opponent in my time here by far," said Guardiola.

City surged to second place in the Premier League, just four points behind leaders Arsenal, following Arsenal's unexpected 2-2 draw with Sunderland. Liverpool, once champions just six months ago, fell to eighth after suffering five losses in six matches. Manager Arne Slot, acknowledging the team's decline, stated, "As Liverpool manager, I shouldn't be talking about the top position because our performance needs to be better."

Manchester City surged to second place in the Premier League, just four points behind leaders Arsenal **PHOTO: X/Manchester City**

Over in Italy, Napoli's struggles without Kevin De Bruyne continued, suffering a 2-0 defeat to Bologna, which resulted in their loss of top spot in Serie A to Roma and Inter Milan. Napoli has now failed to score in three consecutive matches. *—PTI*

Ministry approves appointment of 320 coaches

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

As part of its "medal strategy" for the Olympic and Asian Games, the Sports Ministry has given approval for the recruitment of 320 assistant coaches covering 25 disciplines across Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said the focus will be on disciplines like aquatics, cycling and tennis, in which Indian athletes haven't particularly done well but have "immense medal potential."

"It will cover the major disciplines at SAI centres. The selection process will be merit-based and transparent and will only include those who are certified or license holders in their respective disciplines," Mandaviya said in an interaction here.

"We are trying to give weightage to sports that will improve the overall sporting culture in the country. Sports like tennis, kayaking and canoeing are have huge potential," he added.

Mandaviya said 50 per cent of the recruits would be women for the creation of a "safe sports environment" and promote "gender quality" as promised by the National Sports Governance Act.

"Assistant coaches are an important as they nurture talent from grassroots to elite level," he said. *—PTI*

FIT BUT UNFIT?

Shami unlikely to return to in'tl cricket

NEW DELHI, 10 NOV

Mohammed Shami may have already bowled 93 overs in the ongoing Ranji Trophy but it is unlikely that one of India's finest pacers will be seen donning the whites again and his chances of wearing the ODI blues also look bleak.

The 35-year-old last played for India in the Champions Trophy in March but since then, he hasn't been picked in any format. He had endured a lengthy layoff from the game after the heel injury in 2023 which required surgery after the World Cup.

- The 35-year-old last played for India in the Champions Trophy in March but since then hasn't been picked in any format. He had endured a lengthy layoff from the game after the heel injury in 2023 which required surgery after the World Cup.

At this point, the direction in which Indian cricket is moving, it is unlikely that Shami will be adding more games to the 197 internationals that he has played across three formats.

He has fallen off the radar in both Test and T20I cricket where Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep have rapidly gone up the ladder.

The only format seemingly left for him is ODI. But given that the next one-day World Cup is in 2027, it wouldn't be particularly prudent to travel with a 37-year-old with a history of career-threatening injuries, including a knee problem.

Shami has not exactly been pleased with the national selectors and has gone on record to say that they have not communicated with him. However, the BCCI denies this.

"The selection committee was desperate to get his services in England as Jasprit Bumrah could not have played more than three Tests," a senior board official said.

BCCI claims that senior board members asked Shami to play an India A game against England Lions in either Canterbury or Northampton to test his fitness, but he denied the request. However, Shami hasn't confirmed this. *—PTI*